

Hafa Adai!

Couple's request to remain free pending appeal OK'd. **PAGE 6**
Coca-Cola grand draw today; tech gadgets at stake. **PAGE 8**

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75¢

Judge orders sale of M/V Luta

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal judge ordered yesterday the sale of cargo ship M/V *Luta*, in the minimum bid amount of \$550,000.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood approved the vessel's sale, citing its expensive upkeep and the delay in securing its release.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the U.S. Marshal to sell the ship on Feb. 8, 2017, at 10am. Notice of the sale shall be published in the *Saipan Tribune*, *Marianas Variety*, and the

See **JUDGE** on **Page 4**

Kilili reintroduces CW bill in Congress

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) reintroduced his bill last week in the U.S. House of Representatives after the opening session of the 115th Congress.

House Resolution 339 aims to increase the number of people allowed to hold the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Nonimmigrant Visa or CW1 visa.

HR 339 is the same bill as HR 6401 or the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act.

The measure was already referred to the Natural Resources and Judiciary committees of the House on Jan. 5.

HR 6401 aims to amend Public Law 94-241 that approved the Covenant to establish the Com-

See **KILILI** on **Page 4**

Legislature: Now open for business

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Both leaders of the CNMI House of Representatives and Senate declared yesterday that they are now open for business, with the GOP-dominated 20th Legislature ready to buckle down to work with the administration to push forward its legislative agenda in the next two years.

The 20th Legislature held its inaugural session yesterday, with the House opening at 10am followed by the Senate an hour later.

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro administered the oath of office for the House while CNMI Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja officiated at the Senate.

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), who retained his

See **LEGISLATURE** on **Page 4**



OFFICIAL DIGNITARIES

From right, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, former representative Cinta Kaipat, and councilor Diego Kaipat listen to the proceedings as the 20th CNMI Legislature holds its inaugural session yesterday.

JON PEREZ

See more photos
on **Page 2**

Guerrero steps down as BOE chair

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The long-running chairman of the Board of Education, Herman Guerrero,

officially stepped down as chairman yesterday, after holding the position through multiple years on and off since joining the board.

The BOE immediately elected



Guerrero

Marylou Ada yesterday as the next BOE chair.

Guerrero was reluctant to step down from the position, but thinks it is about

time that he sits back a bit. Guerrero clarified this does not mean that he is giving up on the BOE.

"Many were disappointed because of my decision to step down. Just because I am stepping down does not mean I won't be there to support the

BOE," said Guerrero.

"I still have two more years in my term, so I would very much be involved with BOE matters," he added.

The new BOE chair, Ada, said she looks forward "to being BOE chair

See **GUERRERO** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

David M. Sablan Sr. has retired after 24 years with Tan Holdings Corp.

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NATION

A winter storm has spread ice and snow from Mississippi to Maine.

PAGE 15



ASIA

A massive crowd of mostly barefoot Filipino devotees join an procession.

PAGE 15



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20th CNMI Legislature Inaugural Session

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Senate members of the 20th CNMI Legislature.



House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan, seated center, joins members of the House of Representatives in the 20th CNMI Legislature for a group photo in yesterday's inaugural session.



CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, from left, CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona, and U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands Presiding Judge Ramona V. Manglona watch the inauguration from the gallery.



Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), left, and Senate Vice President Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota), right, join some members of the Senate staff for a group photo.



Tinian senators Francisco Q. Cruz, from left, Jude U. Hofschneider, and Francisco M. Borja, fourth left, join officials of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan.



Former Senate president Pete Reyes, front, and former representative Felicidad Ogomoro.



The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion Color Guard.



Seated from left, Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan, Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.



Marianas Sunset Fun Run

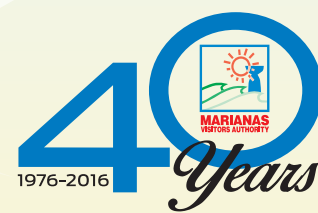
Jan. 20, 2016

To mark the end of the yearlong celebration of its 40th anniversary, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is inviting tourism partners of all sectors and ages – including the general public – to join its Marianas Sunset Fun Run on Jan. 20, 2017, on the Governor Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway.

Registration forms are available at www.mymarianas.com. Proceeds of the event will benefit the Dog Control Program of the Saipan Mayor's Office, which helps control the stray dog population. The run will begin at 6 p.m. at Garapan Fishing Base, with the turnaround point at the Japanese tank at Quartermaster Rd. Registration for the Marianas Sunset Run is \$5. Cash and company checks are welcomed, and checks should be made payable to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

T-shirts provided by the MVA and Tan Holdings Corp. will be distributed to registrants while supplies last. Taste of the Marianas tokens will be given to the first five male and first five female finishers. The first 40 registrants under 18 will receive a Saipan-da backpack.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Ed Diaz at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 670.664.3200/01.



www.mymarianas.com

Court command sought for \$18.7M judgment

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The heirs of Maria Mangabao have asked the Superior Court to command the Finance De-

partment to pay the \$18.7 million court judgment entered in 2008 as compensation over the taking of their land in Chalan Kanoa in 1993.

The Office of the Attorney

Herman Atalig sworn into BOE



ERWIN ENCINARES

From left to right, Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, former Board of Education Rota representative Denise R. King, and current Board of Education Rota representative Herman M. Atalig after the swearing in of BOE officers yesterday.

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Retired sergeant major Herman Atalig was sworn in as a member of the Board of Education yesterday at the conference room of the Education commissioner.

Atalig won against Dexter Apatang in the BOE race to represent Rota.

Atalig wants equality in curriculum for all CNMI students. He said he wants "every student in the CNMI to receive quality education and have equal opportunity for all three islands. What Saipan is getting, Rota and Tinian must be getting also."

Atalig also wishes to address the teacher problem of the Public School System. "When you are lacking teachers, it means there is something wrong with the system. We have to concentrate on recruiting and retention, even if we have to spend more money on teacher in Tinian and Rota, because they are very remote places," said Atalig, stating Tinian and Rota are less likely to be desired because of the lack of incentives to teach.

"A teacher would probably spend only one year before taking off. If we have programs or incentives for them to stay, [it could be prevented]," added Atalig.

Atalig commended Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog for giving PSS more funding.

"With all that money now and all that revenue, we cannot say that funding is an issue," he said.

Atalig also wants to see upgrades in technology for educational purposes.

"With technology, we could tap into Saipan's online courses to the other islands if fund-

ing is [an issue]. We might have to explore to solve the problem. However, we must have a reliable internet system, which is not there yet," said Atalig.

Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero expects Atalig to be a great asset to the BOE.

"I feel we can definitely work together as a team and [Atalig] will contribute greatly to BOE discussions," said Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero agreed with Atalig on the problem with teacher retention and recruitment, believing that retention and recruitment would not be as challenging with more incentives and programs available to teachers on Tinian and Rota.

"Those are definitely issues we want to address. It is going to take a lot of discussion as well as research and review to ensure [PSS] provides a salary that is equitable for our teachers and our staff," said Deleon Guerrero.

"I have already presented a draft compensation plan to the BOE that includes an adjusted salary for both certified and non-certified staff. We have done some research over the past year and we have gathered data to look at market value, our recruitment cost, as well as some of the big challenges in terms of recruitment," she added.

Deleon Guerrero said PSS was aware of the difficulty in recruiting and retaining individuals to come and teach in the CNMI.

"After about two years, which is our contract period, they go back, forcing [PSS] to go through the whole cycle again. We are looking to really beefing up our retention efforts as well."

» OAG says govt should be given time to formulate payment plans

General, however wants the CNMI government to be given more time to formulate further plans for payment. Assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington said the Commonwealth does not have \$18 million sitting in its bank accounts.

The Mangabao intervenors/heirs, through counsels Edward C. Arriola and Michael W. Dotts, said the government has not paid a cent since 2008. They said the total amount

of judgment now stands at \$18,701,553.818, as of Dec. 28, 2016.

The lawyers said each day until Jan 3, 2017 is an additional \$2,732.896 and that commencing Jan. 4, 2017, the amount of judgment increases by \$2,886.758 each and every day thereafter until Jan. 3, 2018.

Arriola and Dotts cited that last Dec. 28, the CNMI Supreme Court held that in the context of eminent do-

main, the Commonwealth courts have the authority to compel the government to pay outstanding land compensation judgments even in the absence of money set aside by the Legislature.

Arriola and Dotts said Finance is duty bound by law to pay the Mangabao heirs.

Brasington said the Mangabao estate stands to receive a substantial sum that has been recently appropriated.

"The Legislature is finally moving to right a historic wrong, namely its complete failure for over a decade to appropriate any significant amount for the payment of judgments," Brasington said.

However, Brasington added, the Mangabao estate is not the only judgment creditor of the CNMI, and the Commonwealth cannot pay everyone at once.

Given the need for finding creative solutions and in the interests of working toward a mutually agreeable solution, Brasington said the court should hold the motion in abeyance an order a status conference at the parties' earliest convenience.

According to court records, the CNMI and the Mangabao heirs agreed to the taking of land consisting of 6,000 square meters in 1993 and a judgment of \$4.2 million.

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Castro chairs Saipan, NI municipal council

Former Youth Congress delegate L.J. Castro is the 14th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chairman after he was elevated to the position by acclimation following its first organizational session yesterday at the Kiosku Round House in Chalan Kanoa.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang swore in Castro and Diego Kaipat in a short ceremony across the U.S. Post Office.

Castro alluded to being a stone's throw away from the childhood homes of his father and mother. "From where I sit, across this kiosku and

across our post office, I can see the childhood home of my mother. Down the street from this kiosku, a few yards down the road, stands the childhood home of my father. Sitting here with both of these places in my view and both of their memories in my heart is truly

emotional. Though my parents are physically not here, celebrating this milestone, at this location with their humble beginnings in our midst makes this moment even more special, as I begin the next chapter of my life, as a public official," Castro read in his speech.

"The issues of our Commonwealth are also the issues

people of Saipan."

Leadership

Electing the leaders of both the House and Senate were only a formality as both bodies had already agreed on what would be their makeup.

Reps. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) and Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota), as expected, were elevated as vice speaker and floor leader, respectively.

Palacios replaced Sen. Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian) as Senate President, with the latter assuming the role of floor leader. Sen. Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota) assumed the post of Senate vice president.

The House also chose their committee chairs, with the Senate expected to release its composition within the week. All 15 GOP members in the House have their respective positions: Rep. Angel A. Demapan (Ways and Means), Rep. Alice S. Igitol (Natural Resources) Rep. Jose I. Itibus (Health), Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (Education), Rep. Francisco C. Aguon (Social and Human Services), Ivan A. Blanco (Judiciary and Government Operations), Rep. Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. (Federal and Foreign Affairs), Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (Commerce and Tourism), Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz (Public Utilities and Communication), Rep. Donald C. Barcinas (Transportation), and Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Gaming).

of our villages, the issues of our people, and these are challenges that we must face head on, for as our islands change, so do our villages. And as they change, so must we," he said.

The 14th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council would be composed of Castro, Kaipat, and former chairwoman Antonio Tudela if she is appointed,

"It is no secret our villages are dealing with many problems...These problems may seem overwhelming to tackle for just three people, but they are not impossible to rectify," he said.

Kaipat vowed to work with Castro and Tudela to help solve the problems that continue to plague Saipan. He will also serve as vice chairman and secretary of

the municipal council. Kaipat was a member of the 12th municipal council but was appointed after only Ramon B. Camacho and Tudela ran for the three posts.

Apatang, who presided over the swearing in ceremony, congratulated Castro and Kaipat and said the Saipan Mayor's Office is looking forward to working with them both.

Aside from Apatang, Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan also graced the swearing in ceremony for Castro and Kaipat.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan); Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan); and former representative William Torres, who served as chairman pro tem during the organizational session, also attended yesterday's swearing in. **(Mark Rabago)**

LEGISLATURE

From Page 1

post, said he was honored and humbled by the trust of the Republican super majority. "I am privileged to be the voice today of this organized body."

"I have quite a role as the speaker with the other 14 members of the super majority—including two women, representatives Janet U. Maratita and Alice S. Igitol—and five from the minority. In the days leading to this special day, I can't help but reflect that it has been 40 years since we first established a Commonwealth Legislature."

Demapan likened the Legislature to a person that is already in his 40s. "Some would say this is the person's midlife crisis where one would encounter a crossroad in our journey. But one thing is sure, the person is wiser and more mature based on the many life experiences and changes in life."

He reminded all members of the advice of Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez during last Saturday's Red Mass about charting a course together with purpose and understanding for the people of the Commonwealth, for they are also shepherds of the people.

Demapan challenged his colleagues to work together, and use their knowledge and talents for a successful CNMI.

"Let us seek the possibilities and potential in all of us. I would be committed to be your speaker that would chart our course together."

"We are not going to wait for our future but we are going to make it. We are not going to wait for things to happen, we are going to make things happen. We need to improve the quality of life of the people and deliver on our promises."

Senate

Sen. Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), who was voted unanimously to lead the body, said the 20th Legislature has a great deal of work ahead of them after the CNMI decided to establish a gaming industry.

"The Commonwealth has embarked on a bold undertaking in the region, with Saipan as its centerpiece attraction. We are in the beginning stages of that endeavor. Already, Garapan is being transformed into something we have not seen before."

"As I watch the cranes moving back and forth at the [Imperial Pacific Resort] project and the steel columns rise, I am awed. But as I look beyond the cranes to the surrounding streets, I am also alarmed and concerned."

Palacios said the government gained a lot since approving casino gaming on Saipan as it has the needed money to pay its past due ob-

ligations and fund other programs to deliver basic services. The increase in economic activity was not seen in close to two decades.

"But with those benefits have come the costs. Gridlock traffic along Garapan is common, a place teeming with both tourists and construction workers. Issues with [Occupational Safety and Health Administration] and environmental regulations have increased," said Palacios. "The community and businesses have had to adjust to a different tourist market, mostly made up of Chinese and Korean visitors instead of tourists from Japan. Small businesses have closed, unable to obtain permits for CW workers as competition for limited slots intensified."

He warned other CNMI officials to learn from the past. "Beyond Saipan, there is no trickle-down benefit to Rota and Tinian of casino development other than \$2 million in direct assistance guaranteed under the casino law."

"The [Tinian] Dynasty shut down its operations; the fledgling casino business on Rota has not taken off as envisioned when their voters legalized casino gaming in a popular initiative. These are tough times for the people of Tinian and Rota. If we are not careful, tough times may be ahead again for the

KILILI

From Page 1

monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the U.S. HR 6401 passed the House in late November but the Senate in the last Congress failed to act on it before it adjourned.

If the bill becomes law, it would add 2,002 more workers to the current limit of 12,998, bringing the numerical cap to 15,000, which would return it to the same level of 15,000, almost four years ago.

"The 115th Congress convened last Tuesday. I know we can work successfully in a

Republican-led Congress, like we have done for the last two years. Though the prospect of a new President on Jan. 20 creates some uncertainty, I have no doubt about what the priorities will continue to be for the people I represent in the CNMI," said Sablan.

"The bill provides an extra 2,002 workers—returning us to the 2013 level of 15,000—but only for 2017. [However], even with 15,000 foreign workers (based on CNMI government data), majority of the jobs in the Marianas economy will still be held by U.S. workers," he added.

HR 339 would also raise to \$200 the fee that employers

would pay for each CW1 permit applied. The money would then be used to train locals that would replace foreign workers.

CNMI government officials, led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the Strategic Economic Development Council, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and other sectors from the community support HR 339.

Sablan said that addressing the need for more workers to help the CNMI's growing economy remains one of his central concerns. "That means making sure that U.S.

immigration works to help, not hurt us and making sure that our own people get the education they need to lead productive lives."

He added that he looks forward to President-elect Donald J. Trump's promise to rebuild infrastructure. "If we want to continue our economic growth, we have to have the infrastructure that development requires."

"I look forward to President-elect Trump's promise to rebuild infrastructure. The Marianas already lags behind the rest of America when it comes to the cost of electricity, 24-hour water, and adequate waste disposal systems."

students.

"We are looking to streamline operations, not duplicate offices, and consolidate programs that could be put into one. Changes are coming; it is going to be a progress and we have to do it in order to keep up with the changing world of education so that we remain [relevant] in the world arena," said Ada.

the unchartered waters that we have before us," said Ada.

Ada has served as BOE chair several times. She believes the problems facing the Public School System today are very much different from the ones it used to face.

"Education is...constantly changing and we have to keep up with the changes. The challenges that we face

today are more approachable and are more doable. I believe that we have a good team and I have learned with the past nine years that there is nothing that cannot be resolved if we put our heads together and our students first," said Ada.

Ada is looking to make PSS more efficient in order to further prepare for the future of

JUDGE

From Page 1

Guam Pacific Daily News at least three times 21 days prior to the sale.

The defendants in the lawsuit, Luta Mermaid LLC and its president Abelina T. Mendiola and operators Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, have suggested that a sale would be unnecessary if the vessel were released into their custody, with a court order not to sell it, transfer it, or remove it from the jurisdiction.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the sale can be avoided if the parties in the case reach a stipulation to that effect. The judge said she would accept such a stipulation.

Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto, through counsel George Lloyd Hasselback, is suing Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owner/operators of M/V *Luta* for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel.

After Yamamoto filed the lawsuit last Oct. 25, the U.S. Marshal Service seized M/V *Luta* and the National Maritime Services Inc. was named custodian. The ship's former captain, Michael Brochon, and its six crewmembers, as well as Norton Lilly International Inc. and Long Consulting, intervened in Yamamoto's lawsuit to collect payments for alleged unpaid wages and services from the M/V *Luta* owner.

Yamamoto and intervenors then asked the court to sell the vessel. Brochon and Long Consulting joined in Yamamoto's motion for the vessel's sale.

Luta Mermaid LLC, Abelina Mendiola, Deron Mendiola, and Fisel S. Mendiola III opposed the sale.

Capt. Brochon and the crewmembers submitted a request that the minimum bid be \$550,000. Brochon and the crewmembers are demanding payment for wages totaling at least \$199,147.77.

No other requests for minimum bid have been submitted.

In her order yesterday granting the motion for sale, Tydingco-Gatewood said the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims permit the district court to order the sale of arrested property, with the proceeds paid into the court to satisfy a possible judgment.

Defendants argued that the motion to sell should be denied because Yamamoto had no right to arrest the vessel in the first place because Yamamoto is not a creditor but an investor—a joint venture owning an interest in M/V *Luta*.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the court does not have to decide the validity of Yamamoto's claim to a maritime lien before deciding whether to order a sale of the vessel.

Tydingco-Gatewood said more than two months have now passed since M/V *Luta* was arrested, and still the defendants who oppose the sale have not filed verified statements of interest, answered the complaints, or moved to vacate the vessel's arrest.

The judge said Yamamoto and the intervenors have followed the proper procedures to arrest M/V *Luta* and now, as the cost of maintaining it mounts with every passing day, they exercise their right to seek an interlocutory sale.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she does not find that Yamamoto and the intervenors have shown that the vessel is so liable to deterioration that it must be sold immediately.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the custodial costs are rapidly eating away at the vessel's value to its creditors. The judge said she finds that the expense of keeping M/V *Luta* is clearly excessive and disproportionate to its value.

More than two months have passed since M/V *Luta* was arrested and the owners have not posted bond to release the vessel and that the parties have not entered into stipulation for the vessel's release.

"Therefore, the court finds unreasonable delay in securing the vessel's release," the judge said.

GUERRERO

From Page 1

once again."

"I feel very confident that we would move forward and continue with the tremendous progress that we have made in our education system. I am up to the challenge and I believe I can lead the 2017 BOE into

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Couple's request to remain free pending appeal OK'd

A federal judge has approved a couple's request to remain free while they appeal their conviction of harboring an illegal alien.

In an order on Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found clear evidence that Francisco Muna Tydingco and Lili Zhang Tydingco are not a flight risk.

Manglona said the two do not face lengthy sentences that would motivate them to flee.

Lili Tydingco has been sentenced to 10 months in prison, while Francisco Tydingco to 21 months.

The couple have been ordered to start serving their sentences on Jan. 25, 2017. If they are detained while their appeal is pending, the Tydingcos would likely be serving their sentences before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decides their appeals, Manglona said.

Manglona said the offenses of the Tydingcos are not violent crimes. The judge noted that Lili Tydingco has no criminal history and

is clearly not a danger to anyone in the community. So long as Francisco Tydingco, who is an ex-convict, is able to remain drug-free, he does not pose a danger to the community, Manglona added, although even a single failed test or diluted sample will cause the court to reconsider.

The judge said the appeal also raises a substantial question of law which, if the Ninth Circuit finds in the Tydingcos' favor, will result in reversal.

If the Ninth Circuit affirms their convictions, they must immediately surrender for placement within the Bureau of Prisons.

Last June, a federal court jury rendered a unanimous guilty verdict, finding the Tydingco couple guilty of one count of harboring an alien.

Last Dec. 9, Manglona sentenced Lili Tydingco to 10 months imprisonment with credit for time served. She sentenced Francisco Muna Tydingco to 21 months imprisonment, with credit for time served.

The Tydingcos, through their counsel, appealed, asking the Ninth Circuit to reverse their conviction and vacate their sentence.

A federal grand jury indicted the couple for allegedly

receiving money to harbor two illegal Chinese aliens, including a child they enrolled at a public school.

According to Homeland Security Investigations Task Force officer Jesse Dubrall,

the child's purported uncle, Rongxue Liu, stated in an interview that he paid Lili Tydingco \$7,000 in exchange for helping him enter into a fake marriage and obtain a green card.

Dubrall said the parents of the child admitted that they agreed to pay Lili Tydingco between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to take their child to Saipan and get her a green card. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

UFO donates \$500 to Karidat



MARK RABAGO

United Filipino Organization former president Bong Malasarte, right, hands a \$500 check to Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri B. Ogumoro during a turnover ceremony last Friday at the non-profit's office in Chalan Piao.

Following its long-held practice, the United Filipino Organization donated \$500 to Karidat Social Services in a turnover ceremony last Friday at the non-profit's office in Chalan Piao.

UFO former president Bong Malasarte presented the check to Karidat executive director Lauri B. Ogumoro.

"We chose Karidat because Karidat helps everybody, especially our *kababayans* af-

ected by the recent fire in Susupe. Instead of UFO giving it directly to the fire victims, we always give it to a foundation like Karidat so the foundation is the one who distributes them," said Malasarte.

He said the \$500 is part of the proceeds from events that UFO organizes throughout the year.

"Our fundraising events, especially the Paskong Pinoy, is where part of the money

comes from. The money also came from the sponsorships we raised from our annual basketball leagues," added Malasarte.

Ogumoro thanked Malasarte and the entire UFO organization. "These guys are always giving us money. It's just wonderful. Every little bit counts but these guys are a dependable donation source as they always give to us every year. We really appreciate

their support," she said.

The former UFO president, who made the donation in behalf of UFO president Marlon Regaton, also said he feels for the victims of the recent Susupe fire.

"Good thing no lives were lost and only material possessions were lost. I knew of one victim who lost his entire guitar collection," he said.

Ogumoro said that Karidat stands ready to help those in need and remembers that quite a few victims of the Susupe fire did come to their office at the VSS Sablan Building to get some assistance.

"Anybody who wishes to be helped, we do help. A lot of people lost everything even their documents," she said, adding that she heard that one victim, a construction worker, lost his entire tools set that he uses for work.

Karidat is a Northern Mariana Islands social services organization. It operates under the Archdiocese of Chalan Kanoa and was originally a project of now Bishop Emeritus Thomas Camacho. Karidat also runs the Guma Esperanza, which is a shelter for abused women and children.

Karidat is located in the 1st floor of the VSS Sablan Building, Chalan Piao. For more information about Karidat, call 234-6981. (*Mark Rabago*)

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP16-CHCC/FACILITY-007

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 27, 2017
 OPENING DATE: JANUARY 30, 2017

TIME: 11:00AM
 TIME: 10:00AM

"FOR HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
 ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
 P.O. Box 501220 CK Saipan, MP 96950-1220
 Telephone: (670) 664-4282
 Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the **Personnel Committee** will meet on Friday, January 13, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

The **Operations Committee** will also meet on the same day immediately right after the Personnel Committee meeting. The committee meetings will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA*

- Preliminary Matters
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- Public Comments**
- Executive Session***
(Consultation with the Legal Counsel on Personnel Matters)
- Adjournment

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA*

- Preliminary Matters
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- Public Comments**
- Executive Session***
(Consultation with the Legal Counsel on Operations Matters)
- Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda may be modified during the meeting.

** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Committee members may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP17-CHCC/WIC-09

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 13, 2017
 OPENING DATE: JANUARY 16, 2017

TIME: 3:00PM
 TIME: 10:00AM

"FOR BANGLADESHI INTERPRETER/TRANSLATIONS SERVICES – CHCC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
 ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP17-CHCC/WIC-10

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 13, 2017
 OPENING DATE: JANUARY 16, 2017

TIME: 3:00PM
 TIME: 10:00AM

"FOR CHINESE INTERPRETER/TRANSLATIONS SERVICES – CHCC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY, LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
 ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP17-CHCC/WIC-11

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 13, 2017
 OPENING DATE: JANUARY 16, 2017

TIME: 3:00PM
 TIME: 10:00AM

"FOR JANITORIAL CLEANING SERVICES – CHCC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY, LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
 ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP17-CHCC/WIC-12

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 13, 2017
 OPENING DATE: JANUARY 16, 2017

TIME: 3:00PM
 TIME: 10:00AM

"FOR TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – CHCC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY, LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
 ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Human trafficking videoconference Friday

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services would hold a videoconference session on human trafficking and other crimes on Friday from 8:30am to 1pm (CNMI time) at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office at the Mariana Business Park.

Community-, faith-based organizations and legal service providers are invited to attend the conference that would be broadcast live via videoconferencing to Guam and Saipan. The live session will be at the USCIS field office in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Lawyers, health clinic personnel, congressional staff, social and case workers, domestic violence shelters, and other public service providers are also invited to attend the conference, hosted by USCIS-ICE's Blue Campaign.

The conference is also open to other individuals and orga-

nizations that work with victims of immigration and other related crimes.

An overview on human trafficking and types of immigration relief for victims, process updates and helpful filing tips, referral and contact informa-

tion, and training and immigration remedies for victims are some of the topics included in the training session.

The Blue Campaign is the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's efforts against human trafficking where they

partner with government and other law enforcement agencies, non-profit groups, and other private organizations.

The campaign aims to protect the basic human right of freedom and bring to justice individuals who exploit oth-

House resolution commends Lt. Col. Tudela

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives honored Lt. Col. John M. Tudela before adjourning last month, passing House Resolution 19-54 that commends the achievements of the son of the late mayor Juan Tudela and the late Antonia M. Tudela. Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) introduced HR 19-54.

Tudela was recently named commander of the United States Air Force's 624th Aerospace Medicine Flight late last month at the Sunrise Conference Center in Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

Demapan said individuals

who serve the CNMI through civic, military, and professional endeavors must always be commended for their work. "Individuals who devote their lives to military service merit the commendation and applause of all [CNMI] citizens for their dedication and sacrifice that help protect and ensure our continued freedom."

Tudela graduated from Marianas High School at 16 and completed his premedical studies at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He earned his medical degree at John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii-Manoa before earning his board certification in in-

ternal medicine at the Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center in Portland, Oregon.

He joined the military after the 9-11 terror attacks where he received the rank of captain at the U.S. Air Force. He also had active duty tours as an internal medicine physician at the Yokota Air Base in Japan and Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tudela became an Air Force Reserve in 2010 where he completed his training and residency as a surgeon at the Aerospace Medicine Primary Course in Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. He was then assigned at Joint Base Pearl Harbor in Hickam, Hawaii before being transferred to Guam.

He received the Air Force Commendation Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal, AF Longevity Service with two oak leaf clusters, and AF Training Ribbon.

Tudela continues to practice medicine at the Commonwealth Health Center where is the current Medical Affairs director.

ers for their personal gain. It also creates awareness on the issue of human trafficking by educating the public on how to recognize and report a suspected incident aside for training law enforcement agencies to detect and investigate related crimes, and protect victims.

CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is also set to sign a proclamation declaring February 2017 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month on Jan. 30 at 9am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The CNMI Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition is at the forefront of the event. "As we work to end human trafficking in our community, let us come together to remember the survivors and

vow to bring the perpetrators to justice so that no one is denied their inherent human rights of freedom and dignity," said HTIC member Lauri B. Ogomoro in a statement.

She added that human trafficking takes place in different countries around the world. "The injustice of modern slavery and human trafficking tears at the social fabric of communities. Addressing human trafficking in all its forms is a priority of [HTIC] members and our community."

Ogomoro asked the community to join their efforts against human trafficking. "As we aim to make the whole world aware of modern day slavery, we seek the cooperation of businesses, religious groups, and families to join us in our efforts."

Mariana Resort hosts low-key New Year's countdown

Rain showers failed to dampen the New Year's countdown hosted by the Mariana Resort & Spa last Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

A small but energetic crowd made up of tourists and local customers either booked rooms or drove up north to the sprawling Marpi hotel to celebrate the coming of 2017 with family and friends.

Their choice of Mariana Resort to close out the year was rewarded handsomely with non-stop entertainment and a sumptuous buffet prepared by executive chef William Retardo and his F&B staff.

Performers include the Talofa Dancers, Father & Son Nolas & Travis, chef Leo, and the Multi-Image Band and the New Year's countdown was capped off by a 5- to 7-minute fireworks display.

Former governor Juan N. Babauta graced Mariana Resort's New Year's countdown party and said he was glad he spent the last few hours of 2016 at the hotel. "I think it was nice for Mariana Resort to hold the countdown every year. Its loyal customers really appreciate that. The staff, although working, also appreciated that their loyal customers came up."

Another guest who motored down to Mariana Resort last New Year's Eve is Mount Carmel School teacher Filmah Buenaflor, who came with son Toby and husband Rommel. She said she appreciated the low-key and less crowded celebration of the New Year at Mariana Resort.

Mariana Resort general manager Gloria Cavanagh said the Marpi hotel's New

Year's countdown for 2017 was more subdued and it was by design.

She said the management was just happy to host another countdown since they thought Best Sunshine International, Ltd. was going to take over the facility in late 2016.

Like Cavanagh, Babauta said he also noticed that the celebration was a little subdued compared to previous years.

"It's understandable be-

cause of the uncertainties that face Mariana Resort. I think you can see it in the faces of the employees," he said, adding that despite this tribulations hotel staff soldiered on to serve their guests.

Cavanagh said all directions point to Mariana Resort operating in 2018 and that means the Marpi hotel may just host another New Year countdown party as 2017 draws to a close.

(Mark Rabago)



VISITING DIGNITARY

Guam Legislature Speaker Sen. Benjamin Cruz was one of the dignitaries in the gallery that attended yesterday's inauguration of the 20th CNMI Legislature.

JON PEREZ

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Coca-Cola grand draw today; tech gadgets at stake



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ailene Benavidez, assistant operations manager, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc., left, joins Marilou Paet, winner of the \$250 Joeten Shopping Certificate, at the first drawing held in November 2016.

Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. will be giving away the latest high-technology gadgets at the grand drawing for "Coca-Cola's Share the Magic" promo today from 5pm to 7pm at Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe.

The grand prize winner will bring home an iPhone 7 and an iPad Pro while the first prize winner will walk away with a GoPro and an Xbox One.

Major prizes such as Subway cash cards, McDonald's Arch cards, \$100 gas vouchers, \$150 restaurant package, and \$250 shopping certificates are also at stake.

Every purchase of any Coca-Cola 12-can pack entitles consumers to one raffle entry form.

Lucky winners from the first two drawings in November and December brought

home major prizes.

FIRST DRAWING WINNERS

- Shelo Olivos: \$50 Subway cash card
- Remedios C. Paralita: \$50 Subway cash card
- Fernando Udu: \$50 McDonald's Arch card
- Veronica H. Iglecias: \$50 McDonald's Arch card
- Joe C. Pangelinan: \$100



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ailene Benavidez, assistant operations manager, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc., right, presents a \$250 Joeten Shopping Certificate to Ann Rit Q. Pua following the second drawing held in December 2016.

gas voucher

- Jenny Lynn Cabrera: \$100 gas voucher
- Jenny Lynn Cabrera: \$150 restaurant certificate
- Marilou P. Paet: \$250 Joeten shopping certificate

SECOND DRAWING WINNERS

- Michelle Borja: \$50 Subway cash card
- Linson Manahan: \$50

Subway cash card

- Peter John G. San Nicolas: \$50 McDonald's Arch card
- Hwa Ja Kwang: \$50 McDonald's Arch card
- Ana S. Castro: \$100 gas

voucher

- Nathaniel L. Pacala: \$100 gas voucher
- Rene C. Holmes: \$150 restaurant certificate
- Ann Rit Q. Pua: \$250 Joeten shopping certificate (PR)

Saipan SDA School gets 3-year accreditation

An accrediting team from the AAA Committee recently visited the Saipan SDA School and recommended granting the school a full three-year accreditation.

The team from the U.S. mainland arrived on island Friday to review documentation, observe teachers, and talk with school administrators and

board members during this re-evaluation of accreditation.

The committee assessed several different areas such as the school facilities as well as student activities. There were

10 different areas the committee observed or read in the school self-study. The areas evaluated were philosophical foundation, community and

constituency, administration, staff development, curriculum and instruction, media center, student activities, student services, school facilities, and information technology.

After reviewing documents and observing classes, the accrediting committee commended the school's administration and school board for

the operation of the Saipan SDA School. The committee recognized the quality curriculum and instruction by degreed and certified teachers.

Congratulations to the Saipan SDA School administration, teachers, staff, and school board for the commendations from the AAA Committee in all areas and the accomplishment of the full three-year accreditation. (SDA)

American Memorial Park celebrates NPS centennial

As the National Park Service embarks on its second century of service, American Memorial Park is celebrating the significant accomplishments of its centennial celebration and engagement with the Find Your Park/Encuentra Tu Parque initiative.

Throughout the year, American Memorial Park has held several activities highlighting the centennial celebration. Fourth graders visited the park through the Every Kid in a Park program. Find Your Park provided buses and guided tours to ninth graders. The first Soldier Skills summer program facilitated interactive learning and fun for Saipan youth during their vacation. World Peace Day activities highlighted the peace that came after World War II and culminated in the folding of 1,000 paper cranes

by students and community members that were sent to the Children's Peace Memorial in Hiroshima, Japan.

The centennial at American Memorial Park also saw the first Day of Service. In partnership with the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), over 300 volunteers from the American Red Cross and the CNMI Public School System AmeriCorps program volunteers assisted with a variety of park projects.

This year of celebration was also one of recovery at the park. Throughout 2016 the park, with the assistance of partners such as the Saipan Mayor's Office and community volunteers, all worked together to clean up the damage brought by Typhoon Soudelor. Contractors made several major repairs with additional contracted repair

work that will begin soon.

NPS centennial

Across the country, centennial programs resulted in a significant level of public interest and social media engagement with the National Park Service and National Park Foundation. The NPS, NPF, and partners nationwide reached hundreds of millions of people with the centennial's Find Your Park message, and engaged the public in the NPS Stewardship mission.

Looking ahead

Planning is underway to build on the success of Find Your Park/Encuentra Tu Parque as the National Park Service, the National Park Foundation, and other partners will continue the campaign's momentum in 2017.

At American Memorial

Park, working closely with partner Pacific Historic Parks, 2017 promises to be an exciting and busy year. This will be the second year of the Every Kid in a Park program. Through this program all Saipan 4th graders get a classroom visit from a ranger, a field trip, and guided tour through the Park's Visitor Center and Memorials. This is also the first year that all participants in the program will become centennial junior rangers.

More information about the success and long-term legacy of the NPS centennial is available online here: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/centennial/success.htm>.

If you have any questions about happenings at American Memorial Park, contact park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (NPS)

ABTC girding up to enforce rules on betel nut availability to minors

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Controlling the availability of betel nut (areca nut) to minors is now law after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed House Bill 19-65 into Public Law 19-66 last September.

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) introduced the bill that aims to prohibit the sale, offer, or giving of betel nuts to persons under 18.

PL 19-66 also requires business establishments to apply for a license to sell betel nut, like the ones used for cigarettes and liquor. Cashiers or any store personnel also need to ask for identification from those who are buying betel nut to determine if they are of legal age.

Several studies had shown that betel nut chewing is one of the causes of oral cancer; health officials have been working to curb the practice which has been part of the Pacific Islander culture.

Another bill, HB 19-72, this time authored by Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) looks to increase the excise tax on imported betel nuts from 2.5 percent to 7.5 percent after an amendment made by the Senate. It was defeated before the CNMI House of Representatives adjourned last Dec. 27.

The law and Attao's

bill aims to curb betel nut chewing.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman has expressed support for both measures.

"I think, along with the signing of the betel nut law, PL 19-66, you need to card underage individuals—under 18 years old—removing easy access to it," said Rabauliman. "The whole intent of the bill is to minimize availability of betel nut to minors and at the same time also promoting awareness. These are little things that our lawmakers are looking at to assist us in our endeavor."

Enforcement of P.L. 19-66 falls on the Department of Commerce's CNMI Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control.

"Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres just signed a proclamation about cervical cancer. We all know that, according to some statistics and studies, oral cancer is related to betel nut chewing," Rabauliman said.

"ABTC now has an additional mandate under P.L. 19-66. It now includes betel nut and we're promulgating the rules for that. It has to be now behind the counter. We must now prepare our personnel and do a lot of outreach programs for the community. These are just in line with the intention of the bill."

After 24 years with TanHoldings, Uncle Dave retires

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

David M. Sablan Sr., undeniably a linchpin in the development of Saipan, has retired after 24 years with TanHoldings Corp.

The veteran TanHoldings consultant, affectionately known as Uncle Dave, expressed his desire to resign effective last Jan 1.

Sablan said his resignation is mainly due to his age.

"I feel that a younger generation must take over. I am now almost 85 years old. I want the new generation to take over and if the young generation needs some prompting, I am available for that purpose," said Sablan.

Sablan has mixed feelings about his retirement—both happy and sad—but assured that he would still serve as an on-call corporate consultant to TanHoldings for three years.

"I have mixed feelings about leaving the company because I am not the kind of person that stays home and hope that things would work out. I would always report for work," said Sablan.

"Fortunately, TanHoldings president Jerry Tan provided me with a three-year consultancy contract for TanHoldings' parent company. For a period of three years, I will remain available for the Tan family, here or anywhere in Micronesia that I am needed to

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMDC meeting set

The non-profit Northern Marianas Descent Corp. invites people of Northern Marianas descent to the 2017 general membership meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017, at 6:30pm, at the Carolinian Ut in Garapan.

The primary agenda include updates and the next strategy in the U.S. 9th Circuit Court Opinion affirming NMI Federal Court Judge Ramona V. Manglona's decision allowing non-NMDs to vote on NMD matters, membership recruitment, plans for 2017 and 2018. Please contact 287-6701, 989-8526, or 285-6382 for any question. (PR)

Kagman schools PTSA meeting set

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Thursday Jan. 19, 2017, at 5pm at the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Please call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 for more information. (PR)



MICHAEL SANTOS

David M. Sablan Sr., more affectionately known as Uncle Dave, poses with Bishop Ryan Jimenez on the former's last day of work at the JP Center in Garapan.

do work for them," he added.

Sablan said he enjoyed working for the company so much that, at one point, he offered his services for free, which TanHoldings declined.

"It has been a lot of fun and it was very challenging. The feeling that I have working for this company is just out of this world. I enjoyed working for them. There have been several

times where I told Jerry [Tan] that I am willing to work for him for free," said Sablan.

On the other hand, Sablan is also saddened by his departure and wishes to continue assist-

Another NMC grad passes NCLEX

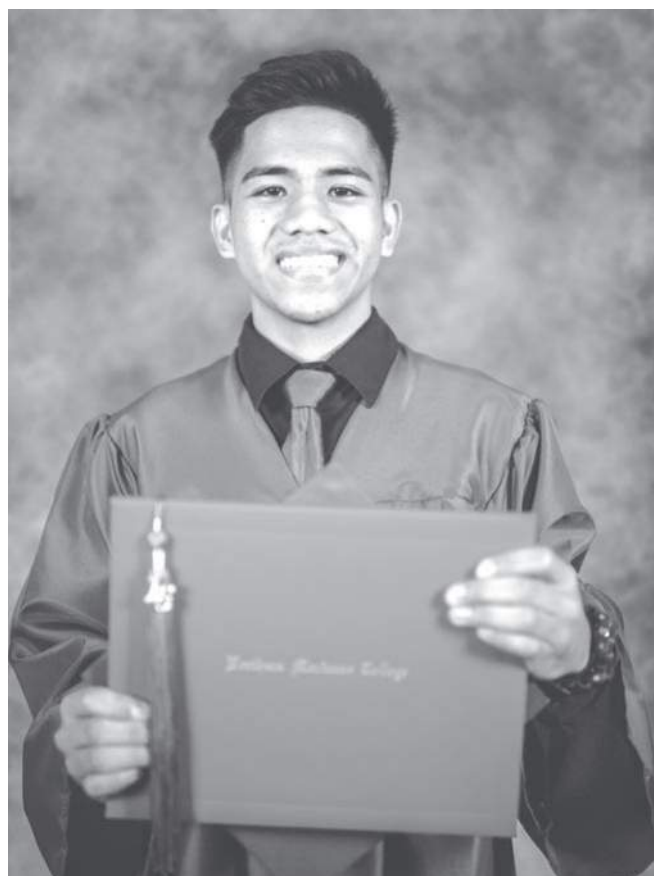
Another Northern Marianas College graduate has joined the list of students who have passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, or NCLEX-RN. Andrew Kim C. Villanueva, who graduated from NMC last May 2016, took the exam in November 2016.

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual's nursing knowledge, skills and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all U.S. states and territories to award nursing licenses.

"We are extremely proud of Andrew's accomplishment and those of other nursing students who have been able to reach this milestone," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

"Andrew has a bright future in the nursing field and we expect to see great things from him as his educational and professional journey continues," said NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa M. Tudela. "We wish him the best on his future endeavors."

"The major factor that contributed to my passage of NCLEX was the amount of support I had from my friends and family; my brother, who served as my inspiration, continuously motivated me to work harder each day; and lastly, the time and dedication I put into studying



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Andrew Kim C. Villanueva, who graduated from the Northern Marianas College last May 2016, took the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses in November 2016 and passed it.

provided me the confidence to pass," said Villanueva.

"Our nursing instructors did a great job preparing us mentally over the past two years for the NCLEX. Fortunately, we were provided with a lot of study materials to aid us for not only our success in our nursing classes but also success in the NCLEX," Villanueva said.

For other students who are

preparing to take the NCLEX, Villanueva had this to say: "Be confident and trust in your knowledge. Stay organized and do not lose focus of your goal."

For more information about the NMC Nursing program, contact the NMC Nursing Department at 237-6743 or visit the Nursing Department office in Building C at the NMC As Terlaje campus (M-F, 8am-4:30pm). (NMC)

ing the corporation.

At the end of his three-year contract, Sablan would be considering writing a second book.

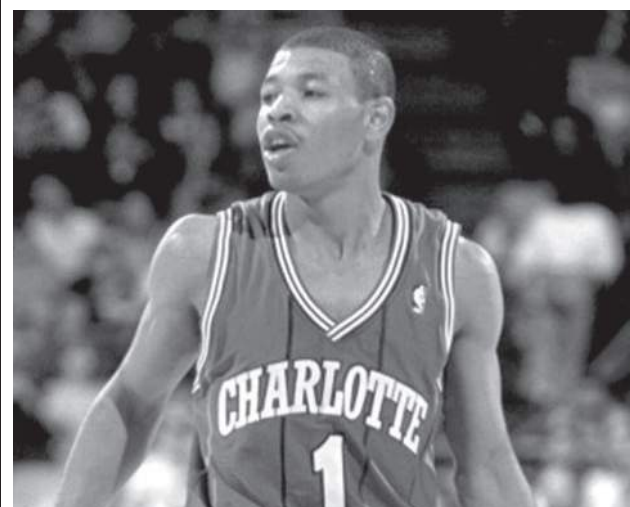
"After the third year of the contract, I would mostly stay home and do some homework and maybe write another book," he said.

"Many people that have read the book I wrote would like me to continue writing, possibly covering the area of what life was like here before

the war and before the Americans invaded the islands. I am seriously considering writing the second version of the book," added Sablan.

Sablan played a key role in bringing Toyota to Saipan through Atkins Kroll and the formation of the Rotary Club of Saipan, just to name a few of his accomplishments. At one point, he was president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Muggsy Bogues to speak at UOG on Jan. 13



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former National Basketball Association player Tyrone "Muggsy" Bogues is best known for his 10 seasons with the Charlotte Hornets.

The University of Guam welcomes Tyrone "Muggsy" Bogues as the 30th speaker in the Presidential Lecture Series.

Bogues' lecture, titled "In the Land of Giants: My Life in Basketball," will be held at 5:30pm on Friday, Jan. 13, in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences lecture hall on the UOG campus.

Bogues, at 5 ft. 3 in. tall, is the shortest player to ever play in the National Basketball Association. He played point guard for four teams in 14 seasons before retiring in 2001 as the 16th all-time assists leader.

The lecture is open to the public. Seating is limited. For more information, contact Jonas Macapinlac at jmac@triton.uog.edu.

About the lecturer

Standing at 5-feet 3-inches, Bogues is shortest person to ever play in the NBA. He played point guard for 14 seasons in the NBA. He is best known for his 10 seasons with the Charlotte Hornets and also played for the Washington Bullets, Golden State Warriors, and Toronto Raptors.

Bogues was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He led

Dunbar High School to a national championship in 1983 and went on to attend Wake Forest University, finishing his college career as the ACC career leader in steals and assists.

In 1987, he was selected 12th overall by the Washington Bullets in the NBA draft. Bogues was later drafted by the Charlotte Hornets in the 1988 expansion draft and led the Hornets to its first ever appearance in the NBA playoffs.

Bogues spent 10 years in Charlotte, playing with all-star teammates Alonzo Mourning and Larry Johnson. Later in his career, Bogues went on to play for the Golden State Warriors and Toronto Raptors. He retired in 2001 as the 16th all-time assists leader.

Bogues is now the head coach of United Faith Christian Academy boys' high school basketball team in Charlotte, North Carolina. He has also written an autobiography, *In the Land of Giants*, recounting the struggles of growing in inner city Baltimore and achieving success in the NBA.

In December 2016, Bogues was announced as a first-time candidate for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. (UOG)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The China game: The other global power is playing coy for now



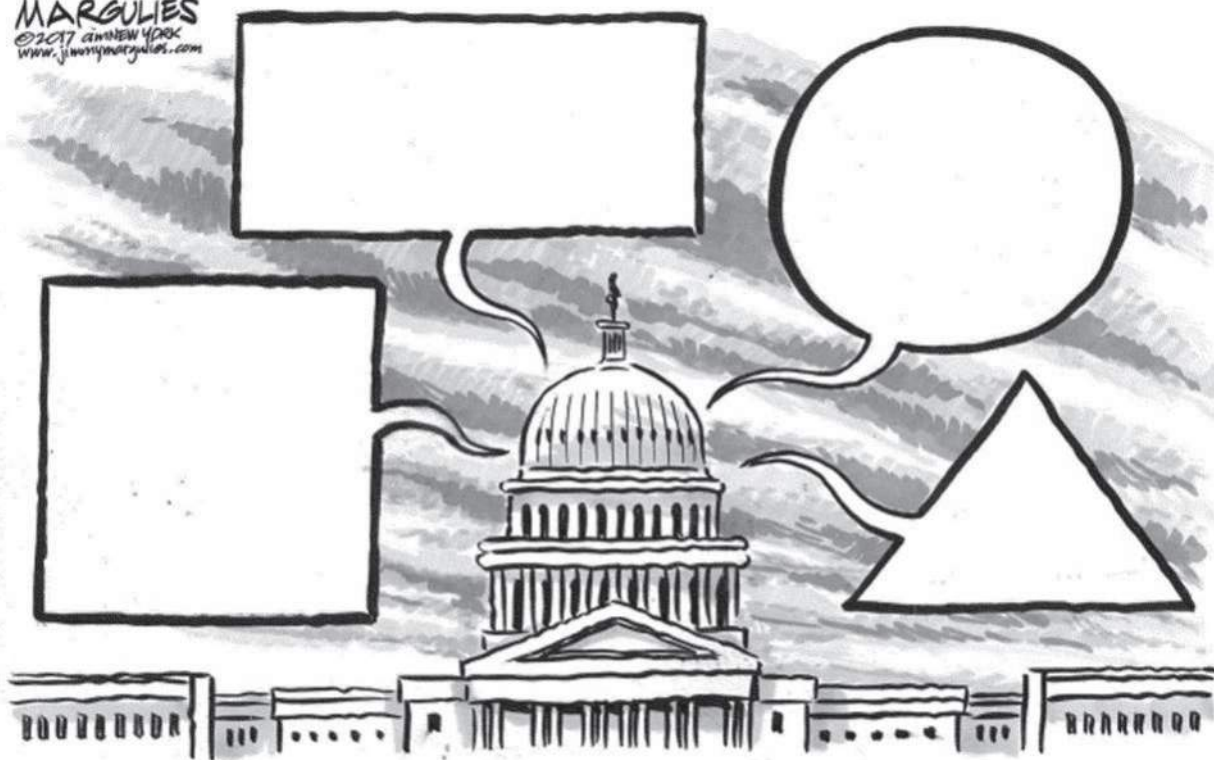
America's relations with China are and will remain a minefield, with domestic as well as international problems lying close to the surface for any Washington administration to step on.

Relations are particularly sensitive now, and not that easy to read. China is a country with a population of 1.3 billion, led by an ambitious president, Xi Jinping, only part way through his mandate, with the idea that he could become as important to China as Mao Zedong was in the country's modern history.

China holds \$1.1 trillion in U.S. debt through Treasury securities. In 2015, it was the largest provider of U.S. imports and America's third-best customer for its exports, after Canada and Mexico. Right now China is playing an interesting waiting game in its relations with the United States, light on its feet, poised to respond to the advent of the administration of President-elect Donald Trump.

Right now, China is in a strong position. Apart from the worsening U.S. trade deficit in November, it is clear that China is well-anchored in the South China Sea, unlikely to be ejected easily or soon from the shoals and the artificial surfaces it has created there. Last month it handed back relatively without drama an underwater U.S. drone seized near the Philippines, apparently unaffected by U.S. huffing and puffing. In hopes of improving its image, China announced on Dec. 30 that it would

See CHINA on Next Page

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Plans to replace Obamacare take shape

Looking at faces of evil in Chicago attack

One word rushed to my mind when I saw four hoodlums brutally torturing a mentally challenged teenager in Chicago.

No, it wasn't hate. It was evil.

In a fair and just world, it shouldn't matter that the victim was white and all four assailants were black, any more than it matters whether the nine people Dylann Roof shot and killed in a South Carolina church were black.

Evil is evil: It never likes what or whom it comes to destroy. That's why decent people of all stripes, no matter where you are, must call it what it is and stand lock step against it.

But in the eyes of the law, not to mention in the court of public opinion, race adds an unsettling dimension to wickedness and raises an inevitable legal question: Was it a hate crime?

In Roof's case, there's no doubt that his racist beliefs propelled him to murder nine innocent people at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., in the summer of 2015. He acknowledged he wanted to start a race war.

Roof was unapologetic, too, for the lives he took and the grief he caused.

"I would like to make it crystal clear I do not regret what I did," Roof wrote in a jailhouse journal seized by authorities, according to The New York Times. "I am not sorry. I have not shed a tear for the innocent people I killed."

In Chicago, meanwhile, at least one of the four ruffians who physically and verbally assaulted an 18-year-old, going so far as to cut his hair and scalp with scissors and force him to drink toilet water, uttered racist rants.

"F—Donald Trump!" one of them shouted at one point in a video that was brazenly streamed on Facebook Live, which led to their arrest. "F—white people!"

Hate crime charges, in addition to a multitude of other charges, were filed because the victim appears to have been targeted based on his race and/or his mental disability, both of which are covered under the state's hate crime statutes.

A Cook County judge ordered all four to be held without bail, according to the Chicago Tribune.

"I'm looking at each of you and wondering where was the sense of decency that each of you should have had?" Judge Maria Kuriakos Ciesil said. "I don't see it."

The fact that this happened in Chicago, of all places—and caused such a widespread outrage—is ironic given all the black-on-black violence that's been going on year after year, decade after decade.

And yet, even in a city where violence is commonplace—762 homicides last year alone, a nearly two-decade high—this particular case left many scratching their heads and wondering how human beings could stoop so low.

"Sickening" and "reprehensible" is how Chicago's top cop,

By **JAMES RAGLAND**

The Dallas Morning News

James Ragland is a columnist for the Dallas Morning News. Readers may email him at jragland@dallasnews.com.



Eddie Johnson, described it. "Despicable" and "horrific" is what President Barack Obama called it.

I won't quibble with any of that. Each has a tragic, if not poetic, ring to it.

But think how morally depraved someone must be to not only torture another person but then have the gall to, as Johnson put it, "broadcast it for the entire world to see."

It's not the moral equivalence of gunning down someone—or nine people attending a Bible study class, as Roof did—but it's evil, no less.

"It makes you wonder what would make individuals treat somebody like that," Johnson said. "I've been a cop for 28 years, and I've seen things that you shouldn't see in a lifetime. But it still amazes me how you still see things you just shouldn't. I'm not going to say it shocked me, but it was sickening."

What we can't do is let those who trade in hate and violence continue to turn us against each other.

Already, we've seen some misguided souls shamelessly blaming the Black Lives Matter movement for the handiwork of four malevolent souls, just to stir things up.

Luckily, most folks are taking the high road, including the victim's family.

"We're so grateful for all the prayers and efforts that led to the safe return of our brother," the victim's brother-in-law, David Boyd, said, according to the local ABC station in Chicago. "We're fully aware of the charges being brought against the offenders. At this time, we ask for continued prayers for all those involved, for our family's privacy as we cope and heal."

A group of black pastors also condemned the attack, vowing to pray for and solicit donations for the victim's family.

What those four suspects did, said the Rev. Ira Acree of the Greater St. John Bible Church in Chicago, "is not a representation of the African-American race in Chicago at all."

Nor, for that matter, is Dylann Roof's deranged violence a fair representation of all whites in South Carolina.

What both incidents should remind us is that hate comes in all colors, yet always looks and feels the same—sickening, reprehensible, despicable and horrific.

In a word: evil.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A warning in the ruins

By **SAM STIER**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I recently followed a drone through the ruined Syrian city of Aleppo, courtesy of YouTube. The destruction was sobering, to say the least. The camera glided by exploded apartment buildings and streets piled with rubble, block after city block. The political situation in Syria is contemptible, the impact of war on human lives horrendously tragic, all silently conveyed in the aftermath captured on video. It also captured something more subtle, something that could easily go unnoticed: Aleppo was built almost entirely of concrete. Concrete dominated every shot. That observation might seem strange, but bear with me.

Of all the multitudinous things we humans manufacture, concrete is among the most common. To make it, we dynamite limestone out of the Earth's crust and cook it at 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit. This produces cement, the adhesive component of concrete. Heat changes limestone's molecular structure, making it reactive with water, so a bag of gray powder and some aggregate, like rock or sand, can be conveniently turned back into a strong solid of any shape with water from a garden hose.

The amount of fossil fuel required to make cement is astonishing: Producing 1 ton of concrete, about a cubic yard, uses the equivalent of 400 pounds of coal. The concrete industry accounts for 5 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. When I see all the concrete used to build Aleppo, I think of what has been released into the air to produce it.

From numerous studies, scientists know that climate destabilization—from the burning of fossil fuels in places such as the U.S., China and India—is causing drought in the Middle East. In fact, for the last decade or so, Syria and the eastern Mediterranean have been in the midst of their worst drought in nine centuries. The effect has been to turn Syria's once-productive soil into hard-baked clay. Since 2008, food prices in Syria have increased an average of 26 percent a

year. A million farmers have lost their livelihoods. Desperate young men from the countryside have crowded into the cities, seeking a means to survive.

In 2011, Syrians in Aleppo took to the streets. Discontent, hunger, unemployment and corruption fed the civil war and the ranks of extremists, including Islamic State. In Syria, a change in climate has disintegrated a society in a handful of years.

Climate change as an underlying cause of social conflict is rarely front and center in the news, but it has been documented by a variety of experts. In a letter released in September, U.S. military leaders and members of the national security community called climate change what it is: a "significant and direct risk to the U.S. homeland." We mistakenly think of such threats as coming from outside our borders. Aleppo shows us that they will also come from within.

Already, extreme heat, drought and floods in the United States have grown increasingly common, intense and chaotic. In the summer of 2015, rainfall in normally arid Texas was measured in feet, not inches. Meanwhile, humid subtropical states such as Alabama have been experiencing extreme drought. In the short term, climate destabilization creates whiplash for farmers trying to plan. In the long term, the situation is much more serious: Climate models project megadroughts that will disrupt agriculture across America in the coming decades.

In Aleppo, the blasted concrete walls are not just an outcome of conflict. They are also, unexpectedly, part of the cause. And however remote and disconnected from our lives places and conflicts like Aleppo seem, the physical rules and conditions that create tragedy there also apply here. The world's troubled places aren't outliers in human history: They're harbingers. They underscore a lesson history keeps trying to teach us: A deep, unshakable pursuit of sustainabil-

ity is essential for lasting peace and prosperity. Anything less and humans can expect a growing litany of miseries.

Sustainability, if not easy, is achievable—even when it comes to concrete. The technology already exists to make cement without emitting any greenhouse gases. Scientists and engineers actually learned the technique from coral, a sea animal that takes in minerals and carbon dioxide from seawater to produce a calcium carbonate exoskeleton—coral reefs.

The human version works by reacting the CO₂ in industrial flue stacks with calcium-rich water, resulting in powdered limestone—tons of it—no mining, no heating and so no greenhouse gases. In fact, cement produced this way is carbon negative: It cleans our atmosphere of greenhouse gases (the CO₂ in the flues) as a byproduct of the manufacturing process. The commercialized coral-inspired cement-making process would be more price competitive if there were an economic cost to dumping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Instead, most CO₂ emitters pay nothing for their socially destructive practices. The means to make cement in an economical and ecologically healthy way seems extraordinary, but all around us nature empirically demonstrates the prospect of both a sustainable and productive human-built world.

Natural systems and human events are deeply interconnected, and if you look closely, very often the issues that lead to social conflict hinge on the use of resources and the misuse of the environment. The ruins of Aleppo graphically illustrate our species' current misguided path. But properly understood, they are also an opportunity for clarity, redirection and hope.

Sam Stier is director of the Center for Learning With Nature (www.LearningWithNature.org) and teaches science and sustainable design at Otis College. Stier wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

CHINA

From Page 10

ban all trade in ivory by the end of 2017, an area where it has taken an international licking for years.

It indicated its displeasure at Trump's pre-inaugural contacts with Taiwan's president but did not go ballistic on the subject, even though it is sensitive for China and governed by the 1972 agreement worked out between Mao and President Richard Nixon. Trump has also expressed his displeasure at China's inability or unwillingness to stifle North Korea's nuclear missile program. China has continued to say the right things on that subject but has not acted effectively to shut down Kim Jong Un, wishing to keep him and his country in the current mode.

It would be difficult for any administration to impose tariffs or other trade barriers aimed at Chinese imports into the United States. For one, U.S. consumers would pay more for goods, hurting the lower-income Americans whom Trump has pledged to try to help.

If the new president is looking to respond to China taking advantage of America, one route could be insisting that China even the current bilateral investment situation. U.S. companies seeking to invest in China are required by its government to take a Chinese partner in some industries. No such requirement exists on the American side and Chinese investors are scooping up both American companies and real estate. Trump could score political points, with American companies as well as with the public, by insisting that China permit reciprocally U.S. companies to invest in China free of Chinese strictures.

That would be fair and would also be seen as a triumph for Trump by Americans chafing to do something to China without clearing the Wal-Mart shelves.

(c)2017 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Rock-paper-scissors turned into cloth-shredder-hammer

By **TIBERIU DIANU**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: This article was originally submitted on Nov. 7, 2016.

On Sunday, Nov. 6, 2016, just two days before Election Day, the FBI's investigation saga against Hillary Clinton's multiple unsecured work-related emails came to an end. Or so it seems. The FBI director, James Comey, sent a brief letter to the U.S. Congress, informing it that his agency has "not changed our conclusions" from July 5, that Clinton should not face criminal charges.

This new letter follows the Oct. 28 letter.

In the "October surprise" letter, Comey wrote that the investigation would focus on "unduplicated" 650,000 emails (different from Hillary's 30,000 emails in July), which were found on the computer of Anthony Weiner, the estranged husband of top Hillary aide Huma Abedin.

Comey's November letter does not indicate whether all 650,000 emails were reviewed or whether they contained any incriminating elements. It is, indeed, amazing for one to see how sometimes the FBI needs a year to analyze 30,000 emails (from July 2015 to July 2016). While other times the FBI investigation advances faster than the speed of light, and the agents are able to analyze 650,000 emails in about a week or so (since Oct. 28 to Nov. 6).

It becomes obvious that this FBI back-and-forth investigation can be seen as a rock-paper-scissors game, where:

- (a) Clinton's rock (resistance to cooperate with the judicial authorities) beats the FBI's scissors (investigation) on July 5;
- (b) the FBI's scissors (investigation) beats Clinton's paper

(money) on Oct. 28; and

- (c) Clinton's paper (money) beats the FBI's rock (evidence) on Nov. 6.

And this stunning new FBI resolution comes at the end of a week full of other revelations, where we have found out, among others, that:

- (1) The Democratic Party Committee Chairwoman Donna Brazile leaked another presidential debate question to Hillary Clinton (I call this deception and abuse of power).

- (2) The Clinton Foundation has confirmed it accepted a \$1 million gift from Qatar while Hillary Clinton was U.S. Secretary of State (I call this treason).

- (3) Marina Santos, Hillary's maid in Washington, D.C., had access and printed up state secrets for her boss (I call this breach of national security).

So, it is also obvious that after Nov. 8, if the American people decide not to put up with this Clinton investigation farce, and elect Donald Trump as the President of the United States, the Clintons and their acolytes will attempt to replace the rock-paper-scissors game with a (bleach-imbibed) cloth-shredder-hammer version. And they have plenty of time to do it, about two and a half months (between the Nov. 8 elections and the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration).

Therefore, it becomes imperatively necessary for President-elect Donald Trump and the (still) Republican-dominated Congress to do their best in order to prevent this vicious criminal attempt, in the interest of our republic and the American people.

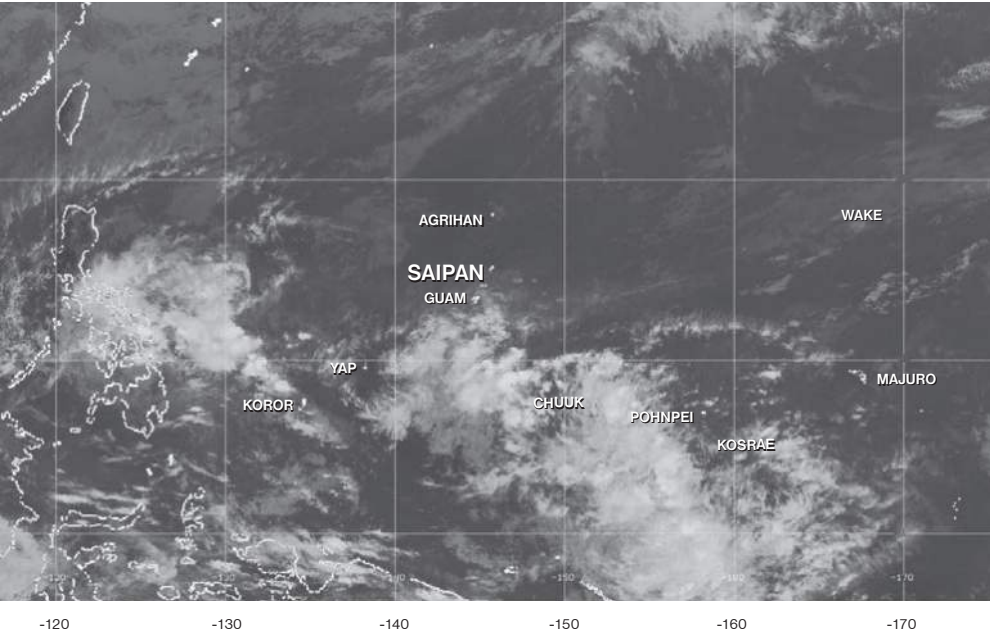
Tiberiu Dianu is a scholar and author of several books and articles in law, politics, and post-communist societies. He currently lives and works in Washington, D.C. This article was originally submitted on Nov. 7, 2016.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 3:12 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dissipating shear line moving through the Marianas is bringing increasing cloudiness to the islands this morning. Very little rain is seen on radar across the area, however there is a band of showers to the south and east of Guam. These showers are slowly moving closer to the Marianas. Expect mostly cloudy skies to develop across the region later this morning. A weak disturbance to the southeast of Guam will approach the region and help maintain the cloudiness through the end of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	83° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	75° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	43° / 19°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 66°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 65°
London	Partly Cloudy	52° / 37°
Los Angeles	Showers	61° / 54°
Manila	Rain	82° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	77° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 67°
New York	Snow Shower	41° / 38°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	46° / 37°
Paris	Showers	50° / 41°
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	39° / 28°
Rome	Sunny	46° / 30°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	60° / 48°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	38° / 24°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	39° / 25°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	48° / 34°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	40° / 37°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:35 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.8
11:43 AM	LOW TIDE		1.1
5:05 PM	HIGH TIDE		2.08
-	-		-

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:04 AM	3:54 PM
Wednesday	-	5:06 AM	4:53 PM
Thursday	-	6:07 AM	5:54 PM
Friday	-	7:04 AM	6:55 PM
Saturday	-	7:58 AM	7:53 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: (United) Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
DEPARTURE ARRIVAL FREQUENCY			6:30AM	6:45AM	Daily	SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	SAIPAN TO ROTA		
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			

Business

Waymo self-driving minivan will start test drives this month

DETROIT (AP)—Waymo, Google's self-driving car division, will start testing its new fleet of minivans on public roads in California and Arizona later this month.

The minivans, built in collaboration with Fiat Chrysler, are Chrysler Pacifica hybrids outfitted with Waymo's own suite of sensors and radar. Waymo and FCA announced their partnership in May.

In a speech at the Detroit auto show Sunday, CEO John Krafcik revealed that Waymo built the sensors, radar and software for the new minivans itself.

Krafcik said the company felt the system would work better if it was developed specifically for self-driving instead of using off-the-shelf parts.

"A single integrated system means that all the different parts of a self-driving car work together seamlessly," Krafcik said.

Waymo also was able to significantly lower the cost of the system, Krafcik said. The



rooftop lidar - which uses lasers to give the car a three-dimensional picture of the world - cost \$75,000 a few years ago.

Waymo has brought that cost down by 90 percent and has developed its own short-range and long-range lidar. Way-

mo's long-range lidar can see a football helmet two football fields away.

Krafcik didn't say exactly how Waymo lowered the costs. But the announcement could concern suppliers like Velo-

dyne, which makes lidar systems used by Ford Motor Co. and others, and Delphi Corp., which is developing its own autonomous driving system.

Stephanie Brinley, an auto analyst for IHS Markit, said

John Krafcik, CEO of Waymo, the autonomous vehicle company created by Google's parent company, Alphabet introduces a Chrysler Pacifica hybrid outfitted with Waymo's own suite of sensors and radar at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017.

Google won't control the market for self-driving technology, so other suppliers with go ahead with development of their own systems. But some smaller players in the nascent industry are "going to fall away," she said.

Waymo has repeatedly said that it doesn't plan to build its own cars, but provide self-driving systems to established carmakers, car-sharing services or others. In addition to FCA, Honda Motor Co. recently announced that it's in talks with Waymo about using its technology in Honda vehicles.

Krafcik said Waymo, which has been developing self-driving cars for eight years, expects to reach 3 million miles of test-driving this May.

Should employer pay for worker's home internet connection?

Q: My manager recently informed me that I must occasionally work weekends to create a report for a Monday morning meeting. After I complete the initial draft, he and I will collaborate on the final version. But instead of coming into the office, he plans for us to do this from home.

As an exempt employee, I have no objection to weekend work. However, I can't do this project remotely because I have no internet connection at home. I don't even own a computer or a smartphone. I know this makes me a dinosaur, but I can't afford these luxuries because I have to help a family member financially.

Although my boss has agreed to get me a laptop, he says the company can't pay for my internet service. But if preparing this report is a condition of my job, shouldn't my employer provide the necessary tools?

A: Yes, up to a point. And that point was probably reached when your boss offered to give you a laptop. Since the internet has essentially become a basic utility, managers should now be able to assume that all professional employees will be connected. Lacking internet access in 2017 is like being without a telephone in 1990.

Although your expenditures may be restricted by

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



your family member's needs, you can't provide financial aid without a paycheck. An internet connection will increase both your current job security and your future employability, so it's time to explore your options.

Assuming that you have a phone, an internet plan can probably be added for a fairly reasonable fee. Cable providers also offer internet access, but given your monetary constraints, you might not have that service. Just remember that regardless of the provider, getting online will benefit not only you, but also your financially strapped relative.

Q: As a member of my company's leadership team, I am extremely concerned about another executive who is not pulling her weight. "Laura" is widely viewed as an incompetent manager. She seems unable to make timely decisions, lead meetings effectively, or even compose a professional email.

I have discussed this with

our CEO, but he plans to retire soon and has no interest in correcting Laura's deficiencies. He basically said that I should just figure out how to get along with her. This has become so frustrating that I have begun to think about leaving. Do you have any advice?

A: Considering the circumstances, perhaps you should muster up a little patience. Your current CEO may be unwilling to address Laura's performance issues, but he's about to depart. New executives often make leadership changes, so his replacement may soon solve this problem for you.

Once your CEO's successor is on board, you and the other concerned team members should clearly describe how Laura's managerial failings are harming the business. But be sure to go as a group. If you're the only one complaining, your new boss won't know whether this is a performance issue or a personality conflict.

China's poorest, trying to stay warm, add greatly to smog

QIAN'AN, China (AP)—An overloaded coal truck rumbles down from the steel factory and hits a bump, sending chunks of its black cargo skittering and click-clicking along the asphalt. Waiting by the roadside, a farmer swaddled in thick, cotton-padded winter clothing scrambles into onrushing traffic to pick up the pieces.

Four hours a day, four days a week, the villager, whose surname is Shen, comes to a spot near her home where a never-ending procession of coal trucks runs into uneven pavement. A thousand little bumps in the road keep Shen and her husband from freezing in winter.

"If I don't come out here, I stay cold," Shen says as she drops a few more recovered chunks into a sooty burlap sack. In one winter, Shen says, she could burn more than 2 tons of coal, worth more than 1,800 yuan (\$260).

Across vast swaths of northern China's countryside, residents go to great lengths to burn untreated coal in home stoves despite government efforts to ban the practice and introduce cleaner - but costlier - types of coal or electrical heating.

That dependence represents one of many challenges facing Beijing as it tries to curb the choking smog that's

become a flashpoint for public discontent with the ruling Communist Party.

Experts say coal-fired power plants and steel and cement mills are the main contributors to year-round smog, but household coal-burning in rural areas is a major cause of the spike in pollution during winter, when thick, gray soup-like clouds of dust smother Chinese cities, often forcing highways and airports to close.

Middle-class Chinese have complained vociferously as smog blanketed Beijing over the New Year period. A picture of a high-speed train stained a deep brown after passing through smoggy regions went viral on social media, as did a blog post by a Beijing banker who railed against government corruption and propaganda and pleaded with officials to take action for the sake of their children.

In June, a team of researchers from Princeton, the University of California, Berkeley, and Peking and Tsinghua universities in Beijing published a study that found that household coal use in winter contributed more small and deadly air particles than industrial sources, some of which are outfitted with carbon-capture technologies.

Authorities in Hebei prov-

ince, which surrounds Beijing, announced in September that they would ban household coal-burning in nearly 4,000 villages near the capital by late 2017, according to state media. Last week, the official Xinhua News Agency quoted a Beijing official saying coal-burning furnaces for heating have now been completely removed from the city's urban districts.

But in rural Qian'an, 220 kilometers (140 miles) from Beijing, in Hebei, China's largest steelmaking region, the riverside road where Shen scavenges for coal is a reminder of the challenges. Up the road is a sprawling factory owned by the Shougang Group, one of China's largest steelmakers - and polluters.

The other direction opens up into the poplar-lined countryside, where elderly and poor residents burn coal in shallow underground hearths. The government is encouraging them to use cleaner coal briquettes that burn at lower temperatures, but villagers dismiss those as hard to light and lacking in heat.

While residents in poor parts of Beijing get subsidies for using cleaner-burning coal or switching to electricity, such incentives are unheard-of in some other parts of the country.

Nation

Questions about hacking swirl as Trump enters critical week

By JILL COLVIN and
LAURIE KELLMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump and his aides are entering a crucial week in his presidential transition as he and his Cabinet nominees undergo public questioning about their approach to Russia and potential conflicts of interests.

Most pressing during the upcoming days of confirmation hearings and Trump's first press conference in six months likely will be whether he accepts the conclusion of U.S. intelligence officials that Russia meddled in the U.S. election to help him win the White House.

Trump's incoming chief of staff, Reince Priebus, said Sunday that Trump indeed has accepted that Russia was responsible for the hacking, which targeted the Democratic National Committee and a top aide to former rival Hillary Clinton.

"He's not denying that entities in Russia were behind



Director of National Intelligence James Clapper testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017, before the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing: "Foreign Cyber Threats to the United States."

this particular campaign," Priebus said in a Sunday television interview.

That's more than Trump himself has said. As for potential retaliation, aides said those are decisions that Trump will make after he becomes presi-

dent on Jan. 20.

Intelligence officials allege that Moscow directed a series of hacks in order to help Trump win the White House in the race against Clinton. Trump has expressed skepticism about Russia's role and

declined to say whether he agrees that the meddling was done on his behalf.

In an interview with The Associated Press after a briefing on the findings, Trump said he "learned a lot" from his discussions with in-

telligence officials, but he declined to say whether he accepted their assertion about Russia's motives. Trump has said that improving relations with Russia would be a good thing and that only "stupid" people would disagree.

"My suspicion is these hopes will be dashed pretty quickly," said Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. "The Russians are clearly a big adversary. And they demonstrated it by trying to mess around in our election."

An unclassified version of the report directly tied Russian President Vladimir Putin to election meddling and said that Moscow had a "clear preference" for Trump over Clinton. Trump and his allies have bristled at any implication that the meddling helped him win the election. He won the Electoral College vote with 306 votes, well over the 270 votes required to become president.

Accepting those findings

would be a positive step, but not enough, said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who is calling for more penalties against Russia.

"He's going to be the defender of the free world here pretty soon," said Graham, a frequent Trump critic. "All I'm asking him is to acknowledge that Russia interfered, and push back. It could be Iran next time. It could be China."

The developments come during a consequential week for Trump, who will become the nation's 45th president on Jan. 20.

Beginning Tuesday, the Senate is to hold the first of at least nine hearings this week on Trump's Cabinet picks. But Democrats have voiced objections to the pace set by the Republican majority. The government ethics office says it hasn't received even draft financial disclosure reports for some of the nominees set to appear before Congress this week.

FBI agent who interrogated Saddam Hussein leads airport case

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—The FBI agent who interrogated Saddam Hussein alone for months after the former Iraqi leader's capture is now leading the investigation into the Florida airport shooting rampage blamed on an Iraq war veteran.

George Piro, special agent in charge of the FBI's Miami field office, was Saddam's sole interrogator beginning in January 2004. In previous interviews, Piro has said Saddam did not know his true identity - the Iraqi leader called him "Mr. George" - and that he posed as a high-level envoy who answered directly to then-President George W. Bush.

Now the 49-year-old Piro,

a native of Beirut, Lebanon, fluent in Arabic and Assyrian, is in charge of the FBI investigation into the shooting at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport that left five people dead and six wounded. Federal prosecutors have charged Esteban Santiago, 26, with airport violence and firearms offenses that could bring the death penalty if he is convicted.

In announcing the charges filed Saturday, Piro said his thoughts are with the victims and their families.

"I want to ensure these families that law enforcement is working tirelessly in order to ensure justice is served," he said.

Piro, an FBI agent since 1999, moved with his family from Lebanon to California's San Joaquin Valley as a teenager. After high school he enlisted in the Air Force, then became a police officer for a decade in Ceres, California, followed by a job as an investigator in the local prosecutor's office.

Once he joined the FBI in Phoenix, Piro was one of only a handful of Arabic-speaking agents - a group that suddenly was in great demand after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks and the subsequent U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2003, Piro was promoted to the FBI's Counterterrorism Division at

headquarters in Washington, leading to his work as Saddam's interrogator.

In later interviews, including a 2008 appearance on CBS's "60 Minutes" program, Piro said he met daily with Saddam in a windowless room and worked to gain his trust by becoming his only provider of necessities and such things as paper for Saddam to write poetry.

Eventually, Piro said Saddam confirmed that Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction prior to the U.S. invasion but might seek them in future to deter Iran and other threats. Saddam also denied any links to al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden, Piro has said.

GOP lawmakers vow quick action to enact new health care law

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top Republicans said Sunday they'll move quickly to enact a new health care law, but they won't say how long that might take or what might replace President Barack Obama's version.

Questions surrounding the future GOP plan have unnerved key parts of the health care industry, including hospitals and insurers that have warned Congress against uncertainty.

"We will be replacing it rapidly after repealing it," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. He declined to provide a more specific timeline.

The 2010 health law, which passed without Republican votes, became a lightning rod in U.S. politics. President-elect Donald Trump campaigned on a promise to repeal it. Congressional Republicans are in agreement it should be replaced. But they're at odds over how to do it, particularly over how to pay for popular provisions, including coverage for pre-existing conditions and the ability for parents to keep children on their plans until age 26.

A key GOP focus has been to do away with the individual mandate requirement that all Americans have insur-

ance or pay a fine. But absent that requirement, insurers have warned it's not financially viable to force them to accept people with existing medical problems.

Another concern for some GOP lawmakers is scrapping a law that's covered 20 million people without offering them an alternative.

GOP Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky tweeted late Friday that he spoke with Trump and that the president-elect "fully supports" a repeal only when there's a viable substitute.

McConnell said the first step will come this week,

when the Senate will vote to repeal the law. With GOP majorities in both the House and Senate after the November election, the repeal bill is expected to pass both chambers before reaching Trump, who takes office Jan. 20.

Trump's incoming chief of staff, Reince Priebus, said he doesn't want to get into specifics other than to say the goal is to act quickly.

"I will tell you that it would be ideal if we could do it all in one big action," Priebus said. "But look, it may take time to get all the elements of the replacement in place."

1,300 Nevada homes evacuated in flooding along mountains

RENO, Nev. (AP)—More than 1,000 homes were evacuated in northern Nevada, and stranded motorists were pulled from cars stuck on flooded Northern California roads as thunderstorms arrived as part of a massive winter storm that could be the biggest to slam the region in more than a decade.

Crews in California cleared trees and debris Sunday following mudslides caused by steady rain accompanying the system that could dump 15 inches in the foothills of the Sierra and heavy snow on the mountain tops before it's expected to move east early Monday. Forecasters warned a second storm is expected to hit the already drenched area Monday night.

In Nevada, emergency officials voluntarily evacuated a total of 1,300 homes in a south Reno neighborhood Sunday afternoon as the Truckee River began to leave its banks and drainage ditches started to overflow south of U.S. Interstate 80.

No injuries had been reported, but high waters forced the closure of numerous area roads, a series of bridges in downtown Reno and a pair of Interstate 80 off-ramps in neighboring Sparks, where the worst flooding is expected to send several feet of water early Monday into an industrial area where 25,000 people work.

Bob Elsen of Sparks said he saw plenty of wet weather in his former hometown of Bremerton, Washington, but he didn't expect it in Nevada's high desert where only 8 inches of precipitation falls annually on average.

"I don't think I've seen this much rain since I moved here six years ago," Elsen said as he watched the Truckee River's waters rise in Sparks. "It's why I moved out of Washington to get away from this stuff."

An avalanche also closed a portion of the Mount Rose Highway connecting Reno to Lake Tahoe for the second time in three days after more than 6 feet of snow fell atop the Sierra last week.

Schools were ordered closed Monday throughout the Reno-Sparks area. Gov. Brian Sandoval—who declared a state of emergency on Saturday—told all non-essential state employees to stay home Monday.

"All first responders are all hands on deck," Washoe County Emergency Manager Aaron Kenneston told reporters at a briefing in Reno Sunday afternoon.

Bob Leighton, the Reno Fire Department's chief of emergency operations, called it "a very dynamic situation that's happening so fast it's hard to keep up with the road closures."

New storm hits West as South, New England slow to thaw

By JEFFREY COLLINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A winter storm that spread ice and snow from Mississippi to Maine is leaving behind cold so bitter that businesses and schools are closing in the South because the region still hasn't thawed.

Four deaths have blamed on the storm, which dropped more than a foot of snow in southern New England, caused a former governor to fall on his icy driveway in Mississippi and could bring the first below-zero weather to parts of North Carolina in more than 20 years.

Meanwhile, the West Coast is dealing with the next storm, which brought the potential of a crippling ice storm to western Oregon and heavy rain to California mountains used to seeing snow this time of year. Forecasters warned of possible mudslides and the worst flooding in more than a decade.

In the East, the worst, lingering problems were expected in North Carolina where up to 10 inches of snow and sleet fell in places Saturday. The deep freeze followed. Forecasters predict temperatures won't get above freezing in much of the state before Tuesday afternoon, a big problem in a place where officials depend on usually mild weather to melt away the ice and snow on less traveled routes. One person died in Montgomery County when a car slid off icy Interstate 73/74 into a tree Sunday morning, Gov. Roy Cooper said.

There some happy endings.



A person crosses the pedestrian bridge in the Public Garden during a winter storm in Boston, Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017.

AP

Two hikers missing for more than a day in the frigid North Carolina mountains without food and water and only a small fire for warmth were rescued from waist-high snow. A helicopter using a tool that can detect heat found the hikers around 5 p.m. Saturday in the Shining Rock Wilderness area about 25 miles southwest of Asheville. Cooper said rescuers

got to the men about two hours later, just in the nick of time.

And in east Tennessee a woman was found suffering from hypothermia a day after she was reported missing.

Teresa Burton, 58, was taken to a hospital Sunday afternoon after a police dog lo-

cated her in woods, the Knox County Sheriff's Office said in a news release. Burton was reported missing Saturday from her Knox County home.

School systems across North Carolina went ahead early Sunday and canceled Monday's classes in part

because of icy roads, but also because of bitter cold temperatures making it dangerous for children without proper clothes to wait for buses and difficult to keep buildings warm.

The National Weather Service predicted lows around

zero or below on Monday morning in Greensboro, North Carolina, - marking only the 15th time in 113 years of records it has gotten to zero or negative numbers. Forecasters said the snow cover would lead to the unusually cold readings.

Florida airport shooting suspect appears in new video

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—A day before the suspect in the Fort Lauderdale airport rampage was to appear in court, a website released footage that appears to show him calmly drawing a pistol and opening fire in the baggage claim area.

The video recording posted on TMZ's website <http://www.t TMZ.com/2017/01/08/ft-lauderdale-shooting-first-shots-video/> appears to show Esteban Santiago walking through baggage claim of the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport on Friday, pulling a handgun from his waistband and then firing several times before running.

Santiago, 26, is accused of killing five travelers and wounding six others in the attack. He was charged Saturday with an act of violence at an international airport resulting in death - which carries a maximum punishment of execution - and weapons charges. His first court hearing

is Monday.

The FBI said in an email that it was aware of the video but would not comment on its authenticity. TMZ does not say where it obtained the video, although it appears to be from a surveillance camera.

Santiago told investigators that he planned the attack, buying a one-way ticket to the Fort Lauderdale airport, a federal complaint said. Authorities don't know why he chose his target and have not ruled out terrorism.

Authorities said Saturday during a news conference that they had interviewed roughly 175 people, including a lengthy interrogation with a cooperative Santiago, who is a former National Guard soldier from Alaska.

FBI Agent George Piro said Santiago spoke to investigators for several hours after he opened fire with a 9mm semi-automatic handgun that he appears to have legally checked on a flight from Alaska.

PENUELAS, Puerto Rico (AP)—The brother of a man accused of killing five people at a Florida airport questioned Saturday why his brother was allowed to keep his gun after U.S. authorities knew he'd become increasingly paranoid and was hearing voices.

Esteban Santiago, 26, had trouble controlling his anger after serving in Iraq and told his brother that he felt he was being chased and controlled by the CIA through secret online messages. When he told agents at an FBI field office his paranoid thoughts in November, he was evaluated for four days, then released without any follow-up medication or therapy.

"The FBI failed there," Bryan Santiago told The Associated Press. "We're not talking about someone who emerged from anonymity to do something like this."

Speaking in Spanish outside his family's house in Penuelas, the brother said: "The federal government already knew about this for months, they had been evaluating him

for a while, but they didn't do anything."

Bryan Santiago said he noted that his brother was behaving differently when he returned from Iraq.

"He sometimes couldn't control his anger," he said. "You could tell something had changed."

Bryan Santiago said that when he went to visit his brother in Alaska last August, he said Santiago told him he was hearing voices and felt he was being chased.

Authorities in Alaska on Saturday defended their interactions with Esteban Santiago. FBI Special Agent in Charge Marlin Ritzman told a news conference that Santiago broke no laws when he walked into the Anchorage FBI office "making disjointed comments about mind control." He characterized Santiago as a "walk-in complaint," which he said offices around the country receive daily.

Anchorage police were called to the office by the agency, told Santiago he was having "terroristic thoughts"

and believed he was being influenced by the so-called Islamic State group and was taken to a mental health facility, city Police Chief Chris Tolley said. Santiago had left a gun in his vehicle when he went to the FBI office with his newborn child. Police held the gun until Santiago was released and contacted him about picking up the weapon, which he did on Dec. 8, Tolley said.

Authorities would not confirm whether he used the same gun Friday. "There is speculation that it is the same gun. I have not received confirmation that it, in fact, is that gun," Tolley said.

In recent years, Esteban Santiago - a new dad - had been living in Anchorage. But there were signs of trouble.

He was charged in a domestic violence case in January 2016, damaging a door when he forced his way into a bathroom at his girlfriend's Anchorage home. The woman told officers he yelled at her to leave, choked her and smacked her on the side of the head, according to charging

documents.

A month later, municipal prosecutors said he violated the conditions of his release when officers found him at her home during a routine check. He told police he had lived there since he was released from custody the previous month. His Anchorage attorney, Max Holmquist, declined to discuss his client.

Tolley detailed other complaints of physical disturbances last year involving Santiago but said officers either found no probable cause for arrest or were told by the city prosecutor not to arrest him.

Bryan Santiago said his brother had requested psychological help but barely received any.

"I told him to go to church or to seek professional help," he said.

Family members have said Esteban Santiago changed after serving a yearlong tour in Iraq. He was born in New Jersey but moved to Puerto Rico when he was 2, his brother said. He grew up in Penuelas before joining the Guard in 2007.

Asia

Huge Catholic procession held under heavy security in Manila



AP
Filipino Roman Catholic devotees climb the carriage to kiss and rub with their towels the image of the Black Nazarene to celebrate its feast day Monday, Jan. 9, 2017 in Manila, Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A massive crowd of mostly barefoot Filipino Roman Catholic devotees on Monday joined an annual procession of a centuries-old statue of Jesus Christ held under tight security due to fears of a possible attack following the killing of a suspected Islamic extremist leader.

The U.S. and British embassies asked their citizens to take precautions, and the police warned that local Muslim militants trying to align themselves with the Islamic State group may try to attack the procession of the wooden Black Nazarene with a cross along Manila's streets.

National police chief Ronald Dela Rosa says authorities have not monitored any

specific threat but warned that followers of a Muslim extremist leader killed in a clash with police last week may retaliate by attacking the procession.

Mohammad Jaafar Maguid, leader of a small but violent Islamic group called Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines, died in a gunbattle Thursday in Sarangani province in the country's south. Three of his companions were captured.

On Saturday, a suspect linked to Maguid's group and a Filipina were killed when they allegedly tried to lob a grenade at policemen Saturday to evade arrest in Sarangani.

Maguid's group has been linked to a failed plot to bomb Rizal Park and the nearby U.S. Embassy in Manila in November.

Authorities have imposed a gun ban, prohibited drones and backpacks, and jammed cellphone signals along the vicinity of the procession, which was guarded by thousands of police and troops.

Despite the fears and heavy security, police said about 470,000 people gathered overnight to be able to touch the lifesize statue at the Rizal Park then joined the start of the raucous procession at daybreak. It was not possible to confirm the crowd estimate.

Devotees jostled around a carriage carrying the statue and threw small towels at volunteers on the carriage to wipe parts of the cross and the statue in the belief that the Nazarene's mystical powers to cure ail-

ments and provide good health and fortune will rub off on them.

Benjamin Tayzon, a 64-year-old businessman, brought some of his children and grandchildren, to one of Asia's largest religious gatherings, although he lost two toes in 1990 when the wheels of the carriage carrying the Black Nazarene ran over his left foot. The accident, he said, may have been God's way of telling him that he has committed too many sins.

"It's a remembrance, like a tattoo that can never be erased," Tayzon told The Associated Press as he walked barefoot, carrying a small replica of the statue on his head.

The lifesize statue, crowned with thorns and bearing a

cross, is believed to have been brought from Mexico to Manila on a galleon in 1606 by Spanish missionaries. The ship that carried it caught fire, but the charred statue survived. Some believe the statue's survival from fires and earthquakes through the centuries, and intense bombings during World War II, is a testament to

its mystical powers.

The spectacle reflects the country's unique brand of Catholicism, which includes folk superstitions, in Asia's largest Catholic nation. Dozens of Filipinos have themselves nailed to crosses on Good Friday in another tradition to emulate Christ's suffering that draws huge crowds each year.

N.Korea low key on Kim's birthday

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea marked Kim Jong Un's birthday on Sunday in a decidedly low-key manner.

Though the young leader's birthday is well-known throughout the country, it has yet to be celebrated with the kind of adulatory festivities that accompany the birthdays of his late grandfather and father. Pyongyang residents did what they do every second Sunday of the new year—joined in sports events.

Kim Jong Un, who is believed to be 33 or 34 and the world's youngest head of state, assumed power after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il, in late 2011.

With the official period of mourning his father's death over and his own powerbase apparently solid, Kim presided over a once-in-a-generation party congress last

May that was seen by many as something of a coronation and the beginning of the Kim Jong Un era.

But he has continued to keep a step or two behind his predecessors in the country's intense cult of personality. Kim's grandfather, "eternal president" Kim Il Sung, and Kim Jong Il statues and portraits are found in virtually every public space or home. Their pins are worn over the hearts of every adult man and woman.

Rumors were rife that a new pin featuring Kim Jong Un would be issued during the May party congress, but they proved to be unfounded. Calendars for this year don't denote Jan. 8 as anything other than a normal Sunday, and there was no mention of the birthday in Rodong Sinmun, the ruling party newspaper.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China reports 3 alleged assailants killed in far northwest

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese state media outlet reported Monday that three alleged assailants wanted in relation with a 2015 terrorist incident have been killed in the country's far northwest. The official Communist Party-run news portal Tian-shan Net said the three were killed by authorities in the Xinjiang region on Sunday after resisting arrest. The report said they were wanted in connection with an incident on April 22, 2015, but gave no details. Last month, state media reports said three knife-wielding assailants attacked staff at a Communist Party office in Xinjiang and set off an explosive device, killing two and injuring three. The attackers were then shot dead by police. Authorities have blamed the attacks on radicals among the mostly Muslim, Turkic-speaking Uighur ethnic minority seeking independence from Beijing.

2016 was hottest year ever recorded in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)Unusually warm winds and seas helped make last year the hottest ever recorded in New Zealand. The average temperature during 2016 was 13.4 Celsius (56.1 Fahrenheit), according to a report released Monday by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research. That was nearly 1 degree Celsius warmer than normal and fractionally hotter than the previous record set in 1998. The climate agency began keeping records in 1909. Agency forecaster Chris Brandolino said ocean temperatures around New Zealand were warmer than normal for the first seven months of 2016 and that winds during the year came more often than usual from the north rather than the cooler south. He said there was no clear reason for the 2016 changes but that they had come against a backdrop of global warming caused by increased carbon emissions.

World

Castle attack exposes Jordan's vulnerability to IS threat



AP
In this Dec. 19, 2016 file photo, Jordanian security forces patrol in front of Karak Castle, where 10 people were killed on Dec. 18, 2016, in the central town of Karak, about 140 kilometers (87 miles) south of the capital Amman, Jordan.

KARAK, Jordan (AP)—Bullet marks on the thick walls of a Crusader fortress and shattered windows of nearby tourist restaurants—damage from a recent shooting rampage—bear witness to Jordan's vulnerability to attacks by Islamic extremists.

Some say the assault on Karak Castle by Jordanian followers of the Islamic State group could signal a more aggressive campaign to destabilize the pro-Western kingdom. A senior security official

said the Karak attackers had planned multiple attacks in Jordan on New Year's Eve.

The government dismisses IS as a fringe phenomenon and says Jordan's security forces can contain any threat—but the Dec. 18 shooting set disconcerting precedents.

It marked the first time IS claimed an attack on a civilian site in Jordan, a spot popular with tourists. A Canadian woman and two local residents were among 10 people killed.

The four shooters were sons

of Jordanian tribes, traditionally a pillar of support for the monarchy. Local media said they were college-educated men in their late 20s and early 30s, underscoring the appeal of IS ideology among some Jordanians.

The security establishment, meanwhile, faced rare criticism over its failure to prevent the attack, with more than one-third of parliament members calling for a vote of no-confidence in the interior minister.

Marwan Shehadeh, an expert on militants, said the

Karak shooting signaled “a remarkable change” in IS tactics. “The year 2017 will be the year of great security challenges in Jordan,” he said.

Government spokesman Mohammed Momani said Jordan, a member of the U.S.-led military coalition against IS, is a target, but has countered threats because of social cohesion and what he said are well-trained security forces.

“We know we have been successful in stopping them on

many other occasions,” he said. “If you look at what is happening in countries around us ... you see our ability to preserve our stability and security.”

Jordan's confrontation with IS goes back to 2014, when the kingdom began carrying out air strikes as part of an international campaign to dislodge IS from neighboring Syria and Iraq where the militants captured large areas.

But Jordan's military strikes have not kept the militants

from its borders, and have made the kingdom a target.

Last year, seven IS supporters and a Jordanian officer were killed in a shootout during an arrest raid. In June, IS sent a car bomb from Syria that killed seven Jordanian troops. Lone gunmen carried out three separate attacks at Jordanian security installations, with five Americans among the dead. Jordanian officials have remained silent about the attackers' motives.

Truck attack kills 4 Israeli soldiers in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP)—A Palestinian truck driver rammed his vehicle into a crowd of Israeli soldiers at a popular Jerusalem tourist spot Sunday, killing four people and wounding 17 others in the deadliest single attack of more than a year of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The attack came at a time of heightened tensions in Jerusalem, where Palestinians have warned of dire consequences if incoming President Donald Trump follows through on his promise to move the U.S. Embassy to the city. The atmosphere among Israelis is also charged following last week's manslaughter conviction of an Israeli soldier who fatally shot a wounded Palestinian attacker.

Visiting the attack site, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

said there was strong evidence the attacker was a supporter of the Islamic State group and suggested a link to previous vehicle attacks in Europe.

“We know that there is a sequence of terror attacks. There definitely could be a connection between them, from France to Berlin and now Jerusalem,” he said.

Netanyahu offered no evidence to support the claim. While Israel has arrested several Palestinians who allegedly traveled to Syria to join IS, the group is not known to have any serious presence in Israel or the Palestinian areas. Israel has said that two gunmen who carried out a deadly attack in Tel Aviv last June were also inspired by IS.

The attacker, identified as 28-year-old Fadi Qunbar,

came from the Palestinian neighborhood of Jabel Mukaber in east Jerusalem—located near the attack site.

The neighborhood, home to many other past attackers, has sporadically experienced violent clashes between residents and Israeli security forces. Netanyahu ordered a closure of the neighborhood. Israeli media said his Security Cabinet decided to destroy the attacker's home and withhold the release of his body.

Relatives and neighbors said Qunbar, a father of four, espoused an ultra-conservative version of Islam, known as Salafism, and had no known ties to militant groups. Salafism is split into peaceful and violent streams, with the latter promoting ideas that are close to those of IS.

Rafsanjani, Iran leader whose life mirrored nation's, dies

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani died Sunday after a decades-long career in the ruling elite, where his moderate views were not always welcome but his cunning guided him through revolution, war and the country's turbulent politics.

The political survivor's life spanned the trials of Iran's modern history, from serving as a close aide to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini during the 1979 Islamic Revolution to acting as a go-between in the Iran-Contra deal. He helped found Iran's contested nuclear program, but later backed the accord with world powers to limit it in exchange for sanctions relief.

Rafsanjani, who showed ruthlessness while in power but later pushed for reforms, died Sunday after suffering a

heart attack, state media reported. He was 82.

Iranian media said he was hospitalized north of Tehran earlier Sunday, where doctors performed CPR in vain for nearly an hour and a half before declaring him dead.

A female state newscaster's voice quivered as she read the news. Rafsanjani, “after a life full of restless efforts in the path of Islam and revolution, had departed for lofty heaven,” she said.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Rafsanjani an “old friend and comrade” and said his loss is “difficult and life-decreasing.” The government announced three days of mourning, and a funeral was expected to be held on Tuesday.

Rafsanjani served as president from 1989 to 1997, dur-

ing a period of significant changes in Iran. At the time, the country was struggling to rebuild its economy after a devastating 1980s war with Iraq, while also cautiously allowing some wider freedoms, as seen in Iran's highly regarded film and media industry.

He also oversaw key developments in Iran's nuclear program by negotiating deals with Russia to build an energy-producing reactor in Bushehr, which finally went into service in 2011 after long delays. Behind the scenes, he directed the secret purchase of technology and equipment from Pakistan and elsewhere.

In an interview published in October, Rafsanjani acknowledged the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, which killed some 1 million people, led Iran to consider seeking nuclear weapons.

Focus

LGBT

activists brace for efforts to undermine their gains



AP
In this March 24, 2016, file photo, people protest outside the North Carolina Executive Mansion in Raleigh, N.C. Tennessee businesses have banded together to try to convince their state legislators to snub laws similar to the infamous bathroom bill in North Carolina, which has consumed that state's politics for months and scared off businesses and sporting events.

NEW YORK (AP)—After a string of major victories in recent years, LGBT activists are bracing for a different task in 2017—trying to prevent Republicans in Congress and state legislatures from undermining those gains.

They view President-elect Donald Trump and many of his Cabinet selections as disinterested—and in some cases hostile—when it comes to the various issues of civil rights and anti-discrimination protections that concern lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans.

At the state level, with Republicans controlling a sizable majority of legislatures, there's already a push for measures which LGBT activists view as discriminatory. For example, legislators in several states—including Alabama, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin—are advocating for laws that would bar transgender students from using bathrooms or locker rooms that don't match their biological gender at birth.

"2017 is going to be our toughest year yet," said the National Center for Transgender Equality in a recent fundraising appeal.

There also may be a push in some states for so-called "re-

ligious exemption" laws that would allow some businesses and civil servants to refuse services to LGBT people if their decisions were deemed to be based on religious belief.

In Congress, conservative Republicans plan to address the religious-exemption issue by relaunching the First Amendment Defense Act, which would prohibit punitive federal action against people and institutions that define marriage as a union of one man and one woman. The measure failed to advance during two previous sessions, but may gain more traction now, with Trump promising to sign it if it reaches his desk.

Ian Thompson, a legislative specialist with the American Civil Liberties Union, says the proposed act "would open the door to unprecedented taxpayer-funded discrimination, allowing anyone to act with impunity in rejecting same-sex couples."

The act's lead Senate sponsor, Republican Mike Lee of Utah, denies that the measure gives a green light to discrimination and says it's needed to safeguard religious liberty.

"It will protect individuals, regardless of their beliefs about marriage, from being deprived of eligibility for federal grants, licenses and employment because of their deeply held convictions," Lee says.

Among other objectives,

the measure would prevent the IRS from revoking the tax-exempt status of religious institutions because of their refusal to accommodate same-sex marriages.

Although prominent social conservatives consider passage of the act a high priority, its prospects are uncertain. LGBT-rights groups and the Democratic leadership strongly oppose it; Thompson doubts it would gain enough votes to overcome a Demo-

cratic filibuster in the Senate. It's also unclear how many of the state measures seeking to curtail LGBT rights will be enacted. One state with such a law in effect—North Carolina—has suffered a backlash that included cancellation of planned business and sports activities in the state. Business coalitions have formed in several other states—including Texas, Mississippi and Tennessee—to oppose enact-

ment of like-minded bills, and Georgia's Republican governor, Nathan Deal, vetoed such a measure last year. Mississippi did enact a religious-exemptions bill last year, but a federal appeals court has blocked it from taking effect. The law would allow clerks to cite religious objections to refuse themselves from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, and would protect merchants who refuse services to LGBT people.

Some opponents of the LGBT-rights movement are urging the incoming Trump administration to reverse gay-friendly actions backed by President Barack Obama.

Texas is likely to be a high-profile battleground this year. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, a key player in setting the legislative agenda, is backing a North Carolina-style bill that would ban transgender people from using public bathrooms of their choice.

"The people of Texas elected us to stand up for common sense, common decency and public safety," Patrick said at a news conference Thursday.

A statewide business coalition counters that Texas could lose billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs if it pursues the legislation. Such intervention by the business community is viewed by LGBT activists as vital now that chances for gains at the legislative level have diminished.

"Even in the face of relentless attempts to undermine equality, America's leading companies and law firms remain steadfast," said Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBT-rights group.

James Esseks, director of the ACLU's LGBT Project, depicted the push for religious-exemption bills as "Plan B" for social conservatives after their "Plan A" failed when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2015 that same-sex marriage should be legal nationwide.

"If they have to live in a world with LGBT equality, they want to carve out a refuge for themselves," Esseks told a recent media briefing.

Some opponents of the LGBT-rights movement are urging the incoming Trump administration to reverse gay-friendly actions backed by President Barack Obama.

In Congress, the House Freedom Caucus is calling on the new administration to scrap an Education Department initiative advising school districts to let transgender stu-

dents use restrooms and locker rooms based on their gender identity, as opposed to the gender on their birth certificate.

The caucus also wants to revoke non-discrimination protections in the Affordable Care Act that have benefited LGBT people.

On another front, the conservative Family Research Council says State Department employees who promote LGBT-rights causes abroad should be "ferreted out" and replaced by conservatives. The Human Rights Campaign denounced this proposal as "illegal and vindictive."

In another initiative, dozens of prominent conservative academics and religious leaders recently co-signed a statement calling for elimination of all federal, state and local laws establishing civil rights protections on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Such measures "empower the government to use the force of law to silence or punish Americans who seek to exercise their God-given liberty to peacefully live and work consistent with their convictions," the statement said.

Signatories included Roman Catholic Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia, evangelist Franklin Graham, and Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Overdrive

Despite redesign, Camry's reign as top US car in jeopardy

DETROIT (AP)—America's favorite car is under attack.

The Toyota Camry has been the nation's top-selling vehicle for 15 years, if you exclude pickup trucks. Now it's in danger of losing its crown, a potential victim of the SUV craze. And even a much-anticipated revamp to be unveiled Monday may not be enough to keep the competition at bay.

Toyota's own RAV4 small

SUV and Honda's CR-V have racked up impressive sales gains as buyers shift away from passenger cars toward the higher-sitting and more versatile SUVs. The CR-V, for instance, outsold the Camry an uncharacteristic five months last year.

The Camry, last reworked four years ago, has made a living by being a solidly reliable if dull ride for people who simply want to get from

place to place. It's not much fun to drive, and in the past its looks were compared to an appliance by some analysts. Although styling has improved, it's still square-looking when compared to competitors such as the Honda Accord or Chevrolet Malibu.

Toyota promises big changes when it shows off the eighth-generation Camry at Detroit's auto show. Few de-

tails have been released, but executives say the 2018 Camry will get a more rounded look. New engines and transmissions are expected with sportier handling.

Dealers have heard this before. Toyota promised big

changes with a 2013 model year redesign, but executives conceded they didn't want too much change, fearing that they'd alienate loyal Camry buyers.

Stu Stewart, general manager of his family's Toyota

dealership in North Palm Beach, Florida, says close-up pictures of the new car he saw at a recent dealer meeting give him hope that this version will live up to its billing. "I'm excited to see something pretty sporty," he says.

Blue expected to be hottest car color for 2017

By **ROBERT DUFFER**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The hottest car color for 2017 may be a kind of blue, according to one paint company.

The number of blue vehicles made in 2016 increased 3 percent in luxury, midsize and compact cars, says PPG, a multibillion-dollar multinational paint company based in Pittsburgh.

PPG expects the number

of blue vehicles to increase and take a chip out of white, the standard-bearer that accounts for 25 percent of vehicles made in North America. Black and silver are second at 19 percent, with our favorite being Vesuvio Gray on the Alfa Romeo Giulia, while blue was just 10 percent but coming on strong.

Why the increase in blue?

"Blue is a very versatile color for the automotive market,

because subtle shifts in hue, chroma and flake appearance of a blue coating can do a lot to enhance a vehicle's style or distinguish a brand," Jane Harrington, PPG manager, said in a statement.

That helps explain all the metallics. Here's a few of our favorite names, if not colors, from 2016. The names automakers use to describe their vehicles' coats may be more colorful than the colors.



NEW JOBS

United Auto Workers leave the Warren Truck Assembly in Warren, Mich. during a shift change, Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2007. Fiat Chrysler will add three new Jeeps to its lineup including a pickup truck as it invests \$1 billion in two U.S. factories, furthering its effort to increase production of hot-selling SUVs and pickup trucks and get out of producing small and midsize cars. The expansion will create 2,000 new jobs. The Italian-American automaker said Sunday it will modernize a factory in the Detroit suburb of Warren, Michigan, to make the new Jeep Wagoneer and Grand Wagoneer large SUVs.

UNDER THE HOOD

How about that Chevy Volt?

By **BRAD BERGHOLDT**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I'm considering getting a new car and am leaning toward a hybrid or possibly an electric. I remember you mentioning you had acquired a Chevy Volt and am wondering what you think of it.

A: In October, I completed a three-year lease on a 2013 Fiat 500e EV and decided to try another take on the electric vehicle. As a result, I got a 2017 Chevy Volt, which like the Fiat, is on a lease. The Fiat was an absolute blast to drive and, despite looking tiny from the exterior, could schlep quite a few groceries in the rear compartment with the essentially useless back seat folded down. Its 100 hundred miles of range was adequate for my daily commute but made post-return-trip dinners out an impossibility. I found the car to be very well executed but was glad to return it before the warranty expired.

The Volt is a different animal. It offers about 50 miles of pure electric driving and, after that, several hundred additional miles via a gas-powered generator.

I picked the Volt for the increased range and its more grandbaby-friendly back seat. Another factor: how fun it made my windy mountain-road-to-city commute.

In 4,800 miles of driving, I've averaged 142 mpg. The

car can just barely make the trip to work on battery only. Once there, I plug it in and am then able to get home, but as with the Fiat, side trips are a no-no. There are times when gasoline is needed, such as on busy errand days or on round trips to San Francisco in which there is no time or convenient place for charging before returning home.

I think the Volt's most impressive features are its brilliant chassis and road handling. It's also fun to drive and is comfortable. Its electric-drive peppiness is almost thrilling, whether running on battery or engine assist. I'm disappointed, though, with the occasional buzz of the gas engine as it spools up for high loads. Sometimes, it bumps or grunts during transitions. Chevy's powertrain folks should eat lunch more often with the chassis gurus!

The car does have some quirks.

I have noticed three different odd odors that seem to come and go. One is a burning coolant smell that, even though there are no noticeable leaks anywhere, crops up during engine operation. Another is a burning rubber odor emitted when the heated steering wheel is used. I've also detected an occasional burning electronics odor coming from the instrument panel.

One thing that absolutely makes me crazy is that, on occasion, practically no heat is pumped into the cabin. This

is especially irksome during 25-degree mornings on which the car's wimpy defrosting system proves particularly inept.

Taking it in for service will be inconvenient, and I'm skeptical the intermittent problems will be fixed in one visit. I'll wait a little longer to see what else crops up before making an appointment.

I'm not much of an infotainment guy but I do enjoy the Volt's Bluetooth interface, which I'll connect to my smartphone for calls. It's much more stable than the Fiat's. I tried the Android Auto app to see how it'd do in bringing up the smartphone's navigation on the car's display but lost interest quickly after the app got in my way excessively during other phone use. I'll study this more and give it another try sometime down the road.

All in all, I believe the Volt, at this time, may be the best option for those seeking a useful, fun to drive, stylish EV with unlimited range. Had the Chevy Bolt been ready at the time I was signing my new lease, I believe it would have been a more ideal choice. I could easily live with its more than 200-mile electric range and simplified powertrain. One of the things I enjoy most about driving an EV is the thought of how few mechanical things are whirling, spinning and potentially wearing at any given moment. Leasing makes sense to me as I'm not keen on owning such a techy and potentially expensive-to-fix vehicle after the warranty expires.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

† Amado Gamboa Dayrit

Lovingly known as "Adong"

Was born on September 13, 1946 and called to his eternal rest on January 3, 2017

In his new life, Amado will be reunited with his:

Father: †Simplicio Dayrit
Father-in-law: †Servilliano Zaragosa
Mother-in-law: †Romana Zaragosa
Uncles: †Leonardo Manacop, †Teofisto Gamboa
Brother: †Simplicio Dayrit Jr.

Amado's memories will live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Andrea Z. Dayrit
Mother: Angelina G. Dayrit

Children:
 Ceazar Q. Dayrit
 Amado Q. Dayrit Jr./Gina Mojar and kids:
Aaron Joseph, Arriane Jireh, Arriane Jashara, Arriane Jeremiah, Arron Jairus, Arriane Jewel, Arriane Jade, Arriane Jeereh, Ayuri, and Yhuan
 Joselito Q. Dayrit/Josie and daughter, *Ma. Chloe Gaille*
 Joanne Z. Dayrit
 Jeston Z. Dayrit and daughter, *Jenarisa Mae*
 Jenny Anne Z. Dayrit

Countless nieces, nephews, family and friends

Siblings:
 Mamerto Dayrit and family
 Vergilio Dayrit and family
 Regino Dayrit and family
 Arnaldo Dayrit and family
 Zoilo Dayrit and family
 Telesforo Dayrit and family
 Irene Dayrit

Siblings-in-law:
 Gilberto Zaragosa and Family
 Leticia Zaragosa
 Diosdado Zaragosa

Daily Mass of intentions for the repose of his soul is being offered at San Antonio Parish at 6pm (9am on Sunday, January 8) and prayers of the holy rosary will follow after mass (6:30pm).

His funeral will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2017. His body will be escorted from CHC morgue at 6:30 am to San Antonio Parish.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 am followed by Interment Services at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be at peaceful rest.

THANK YOU AND SALAMAT PO

Please join us in prayers.

THE FAMILY

Life & Style

Golden Globes sing for 'La La Land,' but Trump has spotlight

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

"La La Land" steamrolled, "Moonlight" swooped in at the last minute and Meryl Streep offered an impassioned rebuke to President-elect Donald Trump at a schizophrenic Golden Globes that pivoted between heartfelt moments of protest and old-fashioned song and dance.

Damien Chazelle's bright-hued Los Angeles musical "La La Land" dominated the Beverly Hills, California, ceremony with seven awards—a Golden Globes record—including best motion picture, comedy or musical, further cementing its Oscar favorite status.

But perhaps its stiffest Academy Awards competition, Barry Jenkins' tender coming-of-age drama "Moonlight"—which competed largely in separate dramatic categories—took the night's final award, best movie drama. It was the film's only hardware despite six nominations.

Yet the night belonged to Meryl Streep, this year's Cecil B. DeMille Award honoree, who most articulated an argument for the inclusivity of the movies—an ongoing theme of the night—over the platform of the president-elect, who's to be sworn in Jan. 20.

Streep, who spoke at the Democratic National Convention, called Trump's mocking of a disabled reporter on the campaign trail the year's performance that most "stunned" her. Arguing for the international makeup of Hollywood, Streep listed off the far-flung

Gosling dances into stars with Golden Globe for 'La La Land'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—It may have taken singing and dancing to launch Ryan Gosling into Hollywood's acting elite.

Gosling has long been a major star and respected actor, but entry into the upper echelon of award-winners and legends-in-the-making has thus far eluded him.

He's as well-known and beloved for his appearances viral social media memes like "Hey Girl" and "Ryan Gosling Doesn't Want To Eat His Cereal" than for his movie performances. His award victories have been on the level "Best Kiss" for 2005's "The Notebook."

Gosling's Golden Globe on Sunday night for best actor in a musical or comedy for his turn as a striving jazz pianist in "La La Land" may be the beginning

homes of stars from Dev Patel to Ryan Gosling.

"Hollywood is crawling with outsiders and foreigners and if you kick them all out, you'll have nothing to watch but football and mixed martial arts, which are not the arts," Streep said to loud applause.

"La La Land" came in with a leading seven nominations, and won everything it was nominated for. Chazelle won both best director and best screenplay. Gosling won best actor in a comedy or musical, as did Emma Stone for best actress. The film also took best score (for composer Justin Hurwitz) and best song for "City of Stars."

"I'm in in daze now, officially," said the fresh-faced, 31-year-old Chazelle accepting his award for directing.

In one of the evening's more emotional acceptance speeches, Gosling dedicated his award to the late brother of his partner, Eva Mendes.

"While I was singing and dancing and playing piano and having one of the best experiences I've ever had on a film, my lady was raising our daughter, pregnant with our second and trying to help her brother fight his battle with cancer," said Gosling, referring to Juan Carlos Mendes.

The ceremony got off to a rocky start when a broken teleprompter initially froze Fallon. "Cut to Justin Timberlake, please," implored a desperately improvising Fallon. It was the second fiasco in eight days for Globes producer Dick Clark Productions, which presented the infamous Mariah Carey flub on

of the end of his status as mere heartthrob and former "Mickey Mouse Club" child star.

It took five nominations for Gosling to win his first Golden Globe, and it's extremely likely to lead to a trip to the Oscars, where he could be the favorite for best actor.

An Academy Award nomination would be his second—Gosling was nominated for "Half Nelson" in 2006. It seemed that nod would lead to a steady stream of such nominations, but instead it led to a drought of more than a decade.

Enter "La La Land," where Gosling got to tap and croon alongside Emma Stone, using some of those same talents he learned on "The Mickey Mouse Club." At one point he literally dances his way into the stars at an observatory, an apt metaphor for his current



This image released by NBC shows Ryan Gosling with the award for best actor in a motion picture musical or comedy for "La La Land," at the 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017.

New Year's Eve.

As if predicting the "La La Land" haul to come, the "Tonight Show" host started the show with a cold open ode to the film in a lavish sketch more typical of the Academy Awards than the Globes. Fallon did a version of the film's opening on-top-of-cars dance scene, with starry cameos from Timberlake, Tina Fey, Amy Adams and the white Ford Bronco of "The People v. O.J. Simpson."

In a more truncated monologue, Fallon's sharpest barbs weren't directed at the stars in the room (as was the style of frequent host Ricky Gervais) but Trump. Fallon, who was criticized for his allegedly softball interview of Trump on "The Tonight Show," compared the president elect to the

career trajectory.

He was quick to give credit to "La-La Land" writer-director Damien Chazelle and co-star Stone for the boost he got from the film.

"Damien and Emma, this belongs to the three of us," Gosling said during his acceptance speech. "I'll chop it into three pieces if you want."

No chopping would be necessary—Stone and Chazelle would each win their own Globes later in the night, one of seven "La La Land" won.

Gosling seemed like a shoo-in for the award over fellow nominees Colin Farrell, Hugh Grant, Jonah Hill and Ryan Reynolds, but Gosling left open the possibility that his win was an error.

"This isn't the first time I've been mistaken for Ryan Reynolds," he said.

belligerent teenage king Joffrey of "Games of Thrones." His first line (at least once the teleprompter was up) was introducing the Globes as "one of the few places left where America still honors the popular vote."

That, though, isn't quite true. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a collection of 85 members, has its own methods of selecting winners for the Globes. Best supporting actress winner Viola Davis, the co-star of Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation "Fences," alluded to the group's reputation for

being wine and dined.

"I took all the pictures, went to luncheon," said Davis, to knowing chuckles through the ballroom, as she clutched her award. "But it's right on time."

Davis continued what appears to be a certain path to the Oscar. Another favorite, Casey Affleck, also padded his favorite status. The "Manchester by the Sea" star took best actor.

Coming a year after a second-straight of OscarsSoWhite protests, the night was notable for the widespread diversity of its winners, in film and TV. Donald Glover's "Atlanta" won best comedy

Affleck gets career reprieve with Globe win for 'Manchester'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—After a long stretch in muddy waters, Casey Affleck has reached high ground, thanks to a small movie set in a small seaside town, and an old, more-famous friend.

He has for years been a small player in less-than-award-caliber movies, always a distant second-fiddle to his big brother Ben.

Affleck's Oscar nomination—for 2007's "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford"—has become a distant memory, giving way to a list of credits that Affleck himself called total dog crap in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

But on Sunday, a career moment came with his win as best actor in a motion picture drama for "Manchester by the Sea," the Kenneth Lonergan-directed film with Affleck as an emotionally scarred New England janitor.

He now is all-but-guaranteed an Academy Award nomination, and could arrive at the Oscars as the favorite.

Affleck's victory also gives him a moment as the superior



Affleck

him a moment as the superior Affleck, with Ben plodding through a series of forgettable films.

Casey Affleck owes his once-in-a-decade role to his and his brother's old friend Matt Damon, who produced "Manchester" and had once been slated to play the part before handing it off.

"I suspect you won't be passing on any more movies in the future if I happen to be anywhere nearby," Affleck told Damon during his acceptance speech.

Affleck's win meant that no apparent negative consequences came from the reemergence of sexual harassment allegations against him as "Manchester" grew in acclaim. Affleck had been

series over heavyweights like "Veep" and "Transparent." Glover later added best actor in a comedy, and looked visibly surprised accepting each.

"I really want to thank Atlanta and all the black folks in Atlanta," said Glover. "I couldn't be here without Atlanta."

Tracee Ellis Ross, accepting the award for best actress in a TV comedy for "Black-ish," dedicated her award to "all of the women of color and colorful people whose stories, ideas, thoughts are not always considered worthy and valid and important."

"I want you to know that I see you, we see you," said Ross, who was the first black woman to win in the category since Debbie Allen in 1982.

There were some real upsets, none more than the British actor Aaron Taylor-Johnson who took best supporting actor for his performance in Tom Ford's "Nocturnal Animals." It was a surprise that Taylor-Johnson was even nominated, so his win over favorites Mahershala Ali from "Moonlight" and Jeff Bridges from "Hell or High Water" was a shock.

As expected, "The People v. O.J. Simpson" took best miniseries, as well as an award for Sarah Paulson. And Netflix's Elizabeth II series "The Crown" won both best drama series and best actress in a drama series for Claire Foy.

sued for sexual harassment by both a cinematographer and a producer on 2010's "I'm Still Here," which he directed.

He settled the cases out of court, and non-disclosure agreements kept him from having to answer questions about the cases in recent interviews.

The issue got increased attention because of the reemergence of an old rape allegation against "Birth of a Nation" director Nate Parker, which seemed to sink his chances for awards. Affleck, remaining mostly unscathed, was criticized as a double standard, and possibly a racial one in contrast to Parker, who is black.

In his acceptance, Affleck thanked his kids for helping him "keep at bay all of the noise that sometimes surrounds people publicly," though it wasn't clear what "noise" he was referring to. The actor did not appear in the Golden Globes press room, and could not be asked about the issue.

Streep wins Globe DeMille award, excoriates Trump

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Actress Meryl Streep earned a lifetime achievement

award at the Golden Globes Sunday and in accepting, turned the spotlight away from herself.

Trump mentioned early and often at the Golden Globes

Donald Trump was not in attendance at the Golden Globes, but he was there in spirit—or more precisely, as the target of a slew of political barbs, not to mention an impassioned take-down by actress Meryl Streep.

Only a few seconds into his monologue, host Jimmy Fallon noted that the Globes was “one of the few places left where America still honors the popular vote.”

He was just getting started. Fallon went on to compare the president-elect to the evil King Joffrey in “Game of Thrones.”

“What would it be like if King Joffrey had lived?” Fallon asked. “Well, in 12 days we’re going to find out.”

Streep took things in a much more serious direction, excoriating Trump without mentioning his name in an impassioned speech as she accepted the Cecil B. DeMille Award.

The much-respected actress, who spoke on behalf of Hillary Clinton at this year’s Democratic National Convention, said the “performance” that had most stunned her this year was when Trump had mocked a disabled reporter.

“It was the moment when the person asking to sit in the most respected seat in our country imitated a disabled reporter, someone he out-ranked in privilege, power and the capacity to fight back,” Streep said. “This instinct to humiliate, when it’s modeled by someone ... powerful, it filters down into everybody’s life. Because it kind of gives permission for other people to

do the same thing.”

Streep also referenced Trump’s policies on immigration when she pointedly listed the multicultural heritage of many Hollywood actors.

“Hollywood is crawling with outsiders and foreigners and if you kick them all out, you’ll have nothing to watch but football and mixed martial arts, which are not the arts,” Streep said, to cheers.

In Fallon’s monologue, he referred to a Streep film, “Florence Foster Jenkins,” in which she stars as “the worst opera singer in the world.” Fallon added: “Even she turned down performing at Trump’s inauguration.”

The mournful drama “Manchester by the Sea,” he joked, was “the only thing from 2016 that was more depressing than 2016.” He also noted that votes were tabulated by the accounting firm of “Ernst & Young & Putin.”

Hugh Laurie, accepting his award for best supporting actor in “The Night Manager,” also indulged in Trump jokes, speculating that this would perhaps be the last Golden Globes ceremony.

“I don’t mean to be gloomy, but it has the words ‘Hollywood,’ ‘foreign’ and ‘press’ in the title,” Laurie said, explaining his pessimism about the awards surviving the Trump era. He added that some Republicans don’t even like the word “association.”

He accepted his award “on behalf of psychopathic billionaires everywhere.” (AP)

She defended Hollywood and journalists, honored the late Carrie Fisher and took shots at President-elect Donald Trump, without mentioning his name.

Streep said a performance from the past year that stunned her came from the campaign trail, noting the incident where “the person asking to sit in the most respected seat in our country” imitated a disabled reporter from The New York Times, an incident replayed frequently in campaign advertising.

“It kind of broke my heart when I saw it,” she said. “I still can’t get it out of my

head, because it wasn’t in a movie. It was real life.”

Streep said that “when the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose.”

She noted that Streep “Hollywood” is a reviled place. But in reviewing the backgrounds of several of her colleagues surrounding her at the Globes, she said that it’s really a community filled with people from other places united in the mission to show different people and make audiences feel what they feel.



“Hollywood is crawling with outsiders and foreigners, and if we kick them all out, you’ll have nothing to watch but football and mixed martial arts, which are not the arts,” she said.

Streep put in a plug for vigorous journalism, urging that contributions be made to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

While Streep won the annual Cecil B. DeMille Award and can boast of 48 Oscar and Golden Globe nominations, her career is still current. She was nominated this year for her

portrayal of a bad opera singer in “Florence Foster Jenkins.”

She mentioned Fisher, who died just after Christmas, and how the actress and writer urged others to “take your broken heart and make it into art.”

She was introduced by fellow actress Viola Davis, who said her husband urged her every day when she worked with her to tell Streep how much she meant to her. She was too bashful then, but not on stage Sunday.

“You make me proud to be an artist,” Davis said. “You make me feel that what I have in me—my body, my face, my age—is enough.”

Young new car Jackson Storm tries to dominate in ‘Cars 3’

DETROIT (AP)—The third movie in Disney Pixar’s “Cars” animated series features an aggressive newcomer to the race circuit who challenges wily veteran Lightning McQueen.

Pixar unveiled new character Jackson Storm and gave away some of the plot for “Cars 3” on Sunday at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. It also drove out a life-sized version of McQueen with new red paint and decals that will stay in Detroit through the public portion of the show.

The new character, Jackson Storm, has an angular, lower look and a sinister-looking black body that makes the rounded and upright McQueen look old. “McQueen starts to feel old-fashioned,” said Jay Ward, creative director for the Cars series.

In the original 2006 movie, McQueen is the brash young newcomer who takes over the Piston Cup circuit. Now he’s about to be supplanted by the



An updated Lightning McQueen animated vehicle is unveiled during a news conference at the North American International Auto Show, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017, in Detroit. AP

cocky Storm. As the season progresses, McQueen’s generation of friends is replaced by newer models.

There’s also a new female character named Cruz Ramirez, a yellow coupe who is McQueen’s trainer as he tries to make a comeback.

Ward said Pixar wanted to capture what NASCAR race

cars would look like in the future when it began designing the Jackson Storm car. The studio turned to J Mays, former chief of design at Ford Motor Co. for help with the initial sketches. They came up with the low black body that makes McQueen look obsolete.

Pixar showed a clip of the movie from the final race in

the Piston Cup series. Storm approaches McQueen toward the end of the race and tells him “Don’t worry pal, you had a good run,” before roaring into the lead. McQueen pursues, spins out and goes airborne.

What happens at the end will have to wait until the movie hits theaters in June.

Ex-husband who drives drunk should be taken off the road

DEAR ABBY: A few months ago I left my husband after a long marriage, mostly due to his drinking. He often insisted on getting behind the wheel while drunk, and I was uncomfortable about it, although I repeatedly begged him not to do it.

Since our split he has been drinking much later at his favorite bar. Where he used to come home about 8, he now stays until 10 or 11. He recently had an accident on his way home from the bar, but managed to get away before the police arrived.

Part of me wants to contact the police and report it because I would feel horrible if he hurt someone and I had done nothing to stop it. I admit there are also selfish reasons I’d like to see him picked up. My concern is that he’ll find out I turned him in. Any suggestion on what to do?

NERVOUS IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR NERVOUS: Your husband is a menace on the road, and unless something is done to stop him, he may kill somebody. I say this not only because it is common sense, but also because the daughter-in-law of a friend of mine was the victim in a terrible accident caused by a man who was blind drunk. She was the only survivor; two others died. Her injuries are extensive and traumatic, and it may take years for her to fully recover.

So, please, put aside your personal issues. For the safety

of the community, turn him in. If his car was damaged, you would not be the only person who is aware of it.

DEAR ABBY: “Kirk” and I have been together for 10 years, married for five. We’re nearing our 30s, and the idea of a child has come up. While I have never had any desire for children, I’m becoming more open to the idea. My parents divorced when I was young, so I have a fear of being a single mom. Kirk grew up never knowing his father, so he has always wanted to take on that role.

Kirk is a wonderful, loving husband, but when he’s tired, he doesn’t always handle things well. We have two dogs, and when they bother Kirk during the night or when he wants to be left alone, he gets frustrated. I’m wondering if this is an example of how he would be if we were to have a baby.

I have discussed my concerns with him; he says it would be different because it would involve a child, not a pet. I love my dogs dearly and feel they should have their needs met as children do, no matter the circumstances. Is it possible that Kirk will be different with our child, or is this how he’ll react when he’s disturbed in the middle of the night?

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

DEAR LOOKING: That depends upon how Kirk reacts

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

when he becomes "frustrated." Most adults are mature and rational enough to differentiate between an animal's need for attention and a small child's, and react appropriately.

However, since you are approaching this rationally in advance of becoming pregnant, it might quiet your fears if you and Kirk were to join some parenting classes together. Your OB/GYN might be able to tell you where to locate one. Or go online and do a web search on parenting classes in your area.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



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By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Skirt
5 Island near Java
9 Pop
12 Close
13 Rocker
14 MLB stat
15 Solid
17 Unwell
18 Musical
19 Cut at an
21 Like
24 Traditional
25 Lotion
26 Ever-green
30 Away
31 Rep
32 — shoe-string
33 Piece for

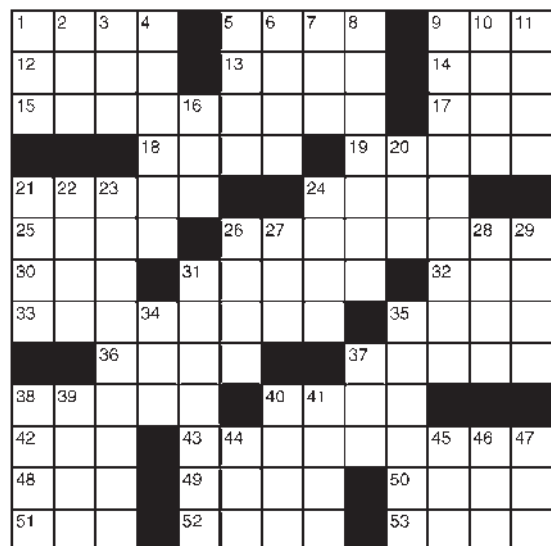
DOWN

1 NBC
2 Wahine's
3 Author
4 Clef type
5 Swiss
6 Saharan
7 Actress
8 Arctic
9 Cause to
10 Competent
11 Pickling
16 Calendar
20 Directional
21 Fem.
22 To boot
23 Toward a
24 Comic
26 Meanie
27 Allow
28 Okla-homa
29 Alger's
31 Spray
34 Snip
35 Yellowish
37 Teeny
38 "— Lisa"
39 Done with
40 Jeanne
41 Six-sided
44 Ring
45 — Jima
46 Ultramod-
47 Conclu-

Solution time: 23 mins.

L	O	S	E	A	N	C	H	A	T	H
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B	E	S	O	N	L	E	N	O		
A	R	T	Y	G	U	M	D	O	P	
Y	E	A	S	L	A	P	S	L	O	W
D	R	O	P	O	U	F	R	F		
I	N	S	I	D	E	P	I	N		
M	L	A	R	A	I	N	O	R	O	P
A	L	O	I	E	X	E	C	L	O	H
M	E	T	E	D	E	S	E	S	P	Y

Yesterday's answer 1-10



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Evan Handler, 56; Pat Benatar, 63; George Foreman, 68; Rod Stewart, 72.

Happy Birthday: You'll be faced with subtle reminders of your past. Learn from your experiences and you will discover new and better ways to solve any dilemmas you face this year. Master your skills and use them in a unique and diverse way and you will open up a window of opportunity that will help you set the stage for future goals. Your numbers are 5, 16, 22, 29, 34, 42, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stick to the rules and regulations before you bring about changes to the way or where you live. Aiming for a lifestyle that eases your stress and encourages a better relationship with the people you love should be your goal. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be foolish when it comes to financial matters. Follow the rules and do what's best for you. Trust in your ability to get things done by calling in favors owed or by offering incentives. Romance is encouraged. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A problem with someone older will arise if you don't take the time to listen to his or her complaints. You'll end up in a compromising position if you don't take care of your responsibilities. Don't take part in a joint venture. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stay on top of your goals. Look for interesting new ways to apply your skills and knowledge. A chance to develop a new way to get things done

more quickly will make a lasting impression on someone who counts. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't fold under pressure. If someone is too demanding or unreasonable, walk away. Protect your assets, possessions and your emotional well-being. Make alterations based on past experiences and facts, not what someone else wants you to do. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Work on improving your personal and professional relationships. Don't limit what you can accomplish because you are too stubborn to listen to the opinions or advice of others. Romance is encouraged. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional matters will be costly if you react too quickly. Take your time and let things settle down before you make a move. Gathering information and taking a disciplined approach to whatever you face will pay off. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Changes at work or to the way you earn your living will turn out well. Don't disregard your ability to negotiate on your own behalf. Look for a unique way to present what you want and you will succeed. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Set ground rules when dealing with personal or business partnerships. Discuss who is responsible for what before you commit to a plan. Joint ventures will only work if you are up front and strive for equality. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put greater emphasis on how you look and the way you present who you are and what you have to offer. It will make a difference and draw interest from someone whose help you need in order to get ahead. Romance is highlighted. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Show a little discipline when it comes to work-related matters and you will impress someone who can help you advance. Sharing emotional moments with someone you love will encourage you to make an important decision. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Added responsibilities will surface. Try not to take on more than you can handle. Neglecting what's expected of you will cause stress that can be avoided if you are organized and prepared to honor promises. ★★

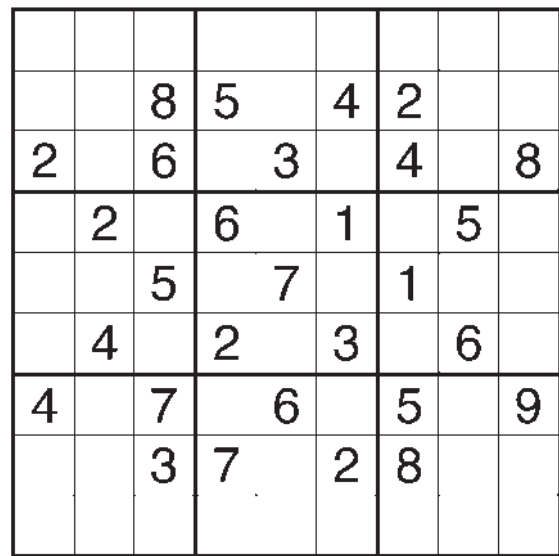
Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, unique and perceptive. You are impulsive and upbeat.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



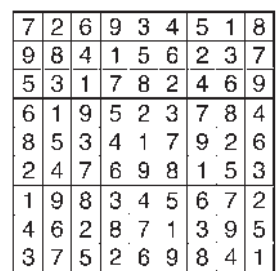
Difficulty Level ★★

1/10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level: ★

36

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

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Solution: 11 letters

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R G E N E C N A V D A K A S S
T E R S O P P L R L N C E N S
N N C E N I T L U A F E D O E
O C E M E O T I B I F A E I C
C Y N O L M I A N C N Y P N C
O A T C A D E T Z N T T O U A
L T I N S Q E N U I F A S T E
L S S I U R E A T L N T I I N
E O O I E U L N L S O A T D I
C C T S L L E N D M N S G E L
T Y T A G N I N E E R C S R N
I N V E S T O R S K C E H C O

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Access, Advance, Agency, Agreements, Annual, Banking, Card, Cash, Check, Collect, Contract, Cost, Credit Union, Customer, Deal, Default, Deposit, Easy, Entity, Equity, Fast, Fees, Guarantor, Income, Interest, Investors, Lend, List, Online, Organization, Paid, Percent, Private, Rates, Risk, Sale, Screening, Signup, Small, Solutions, Value
Yesterday's Answer: STARI GRAD

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WHATZIT Solution: Memory like an elephant

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JERRY TALOSIG
Petitioner.

vs

LEONORA CABRAL
Respondent

FCD-DI CIVIL
ACTION NO.
16-0241

SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or email a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 592 BOX 10000 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 29th day of December.

/s/ Clerk of Court

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: January 9, 2017
CLOSE DATE: January 23, 2017

POSITION: Kids College Instructor
SALARY: Negotiable

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Two (2) years experience in instructional activities or other related field preferred. Must enjoy and be comfortable interacting with young children. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 9, 2017
CLOSE DATE: January 23, 2017

POSITION: Lifeguard
SALARY: \$6.55 - \$7.05 per hour

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification will be required for continued employment for the lifeguard position. Must have a friendly and an outgoing personality. Five (5) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 9, 2017
CLOSE DATE: January 23, 2017

POSITION: Housekeeping Attendant
SALARY: \$6.55 - \$7.05 per hour

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Must have a friendly personality and willingness to provide customer service. Three (3) positions are currently available for the housekeeping attendant.

OPEN DATE: January 9, 2017
CLOSE DATE: January 23, 2017

POSITION: Cook
SALARY: \$6.55 - \$7.05 per hour

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Two (2) years of formal training/education in culinary arts preferred. Position requires employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Three (3) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 9, 2017
CLOSE DATE: January 23, 2017

POSITION: Baker
SALARY: \$6.55 - \$7.05 per hour

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Two (2) years of formal training and/or experience in bakery preferred. Position requires employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. One (1) position is currently available.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office. For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 575/576/266.

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Find today's solution in classified section

Rodgers works Hail Mary magic, Packers beat Giants



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)— Aaron Rodgers, master of the Hail Mary pass, struck again in another big moment.

Rodgers overcame a sluggish start and finished with four touchdown passes, including a momentum-swinging 42-yard heave to Randall Cobb at the end of the second quarter, to lead the Green Bay Packers to a 38-13 win Sunday over the New York Giants in an NFC wild-card game.

The Packers move on to face the Dallas Cowboys in the divisional round next week.

Rodgers was 25 of 40 for 362 yards, continuing a remarkable run of quarterback play that helped the Packers win their final six games of the regular season to take the NFC North. Cobb finished with five receptions for 116 yards and three scores.

For much of the first half, the Giants' defense flustered the two-time NFL MVP. They got pressure on Rodgers and the secondary blanketed the Packers' talented receiving corps, and a few boos even rained down from the stands after New York built a 6-0 lead on two field goals by Robbie Gould.

As it turned out, Rodgers was just getting started.

"We hit a Hail Mary. That got us going," Rodgers said.

Green Bay scored two touchdowns in the final 2:20 of the second quarter, punctuated by another remarkable desperation pass by Rodgers.

With the ball on the Giants 42, Rodgers took the snap with 6 seconds left. He rolled to his right before heaving a



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) celebrates with wide receiver Randall Cobb (18) after throwing a touchdown pass to Cobb during the first half of an NFC wild-card NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017, in Green Bay, Wis.

getting better on my timing, getting the ball out of my hand quickly," Rodgers said. "No negative-yard plays, the offensive line blocked really well, regardless of the stats."

A Packers defense ranked 21st in points allowed (24.3) coming into the game limited the production of Odell Beckham Jr., and the Giants' receiving corps in spite of a battered secondary.

Beckham finished with four catches for 28 yards. Eli Manning was 23 of 44 for 299 yards, including the 41-yard touchdown pass to Tavarres King in the third quarter.

But the Giants were plagued by a series of drops by their receivers.

"It's a game inches, and we were just inches short on some of these plays, inches away from big plays," Beckham said.

Rodgers began dissecting the secondary after coach Mike McCarthy had his quarterback roll more outside the pocket, and the Packers started working the middle of the field.

Cobb had a big night after missing the last two games of the regular season with an ankle injury. Adams had eight receptions for 125 yards and a score.

Top receiver Jordy Nelson was knocked out of the game with 11 minutes left in the second quarter with a rib injury.

'Big Three' power Steelers by Dolphins, 30-12

PITTSBURGH (AP)— Le'Veon Bell spent the last two Januarys watching helplessly while the Pittsburgh Steelers tried to make a deep postseason run without him. The ever fluid running back made up for lost time Sunday against the Miami Dolphins.

So did Ben Roethlisberger and Antonio Brown, the other members of Pittsburgh's "Big Three" together in the playoffs for the first time.

Pounding away relentlessly at a defense that hardly seemed interested in stopping him at frigid Heinz Field, Bell ran for a franchise postseason record 167 yards and two scores. The Steelers overwhelmed the beaten-up and mistake-prone Miami Dolphins 30-12 on Sunday.

"We wanted to go out there and make a statement," Bell said.

Bell, Brown and Roethlisberger, who wore a walking boot on his right foot afterward, more than wiped away

throw from about the Packers 47. Cobb somehow got behind three defensive backs near the back of the end zone to haul in the pass, getting both feet down before falling out of bounds.

"They boxed us out better than we played it," Giants

coach Ben McAdoo said. "It was a heck of a throw, heck of a catch."

The Giants looked stunned, just like how the Detroit Lions and Arizona Cardinals looked last season after Rodgers pulled off similar feats.

"Davante (Adams) made a bunch of plays," Rodgers said. "And Randall Cobb, who this offense has been missing for a long time. We're better with 18 on the field and he showed it tonight."

Rodgers and Cobb weren't

done.

They connected again on a 30-yard touchdown pass late in the third quarter for a 21-13 lead. That score answered a Giants scoring drive that briefly cut the deficit to one.

"Second half we got back to some rhythm throws and I was

the bitter aftertaste of a 30-15 whipping at the hands of the Dolphins in mid-October. Given a shot at redemption, Pittsburgh didn't let it go to waste. The Steelers (12-5) led by two touchdowns before the game was 10 minutes old on long touchdown passes from Roethlisberger to Brown. Miami never got closer than 11.

"Le'Veon was beastly," said Brown, who finished with five receptions for 124 yards and the two scores. "All day, controlling the line of scrimmage, just running guys over and finding a way to put the ball in the end zone. Any time he's playing like that, we're going to be a hard team to beat."

Certainly, at least, teams like the Dolphins (10-7). Given a chance to prove their first playoff berth in eight years wasn't a fluke despite being outgained and outscored during the regular season, Miami never found a rhythm. The problem wasn't the single digit wind chill or a vicious hit

absorbed by quarterback Matt Moore in the second quarter as much as it was the Steelers.

Pittsburgh sacked Moore five times, forced turnovers on three consecutive possessions in the middle of the game, and never really let the Dolphins up off the deck.

"It's hard to win when you turn the ball over," said Moore, completed 29 of 36 passes for 289 yards with a touchdown and an interception. "In the playoffs, you can't make mistakes and that's on me."

Pittsburgh (12-5) ran off its eighth straight victory to set up a visit to AFC West champion Kansas City (12-4) next Sunday. The Steelers rolled by the Chiefs 43-14 on Oct. 2.

"We have to understand the same passion and dedication that we put in this week to beat Miami, that's how Kansas City is going to try to beat us," Bell said.

At least Bell will be around for the challenge. He missed the playoffs each of the last

two seasons with knee injuries. All he did in his postseason debut was break Hall of Famer Franco Harris' team mark for yards rushing in a playoff game. Harris ran for 158 yards in a Super Bowl win over Minnesota 42 years ago. Bell reached that total by the end of the third quarter.

The Dolphins tried to hype themselves up by running around in shirt sleeves in the single-digit wind chill during warmups. Steelers linebacker Ryan Shazier did them one better, racing around shirtless—as if to send a message that his team is plenty comfortable playing this time of year.

It sure looked like it.

The Steelers scored on their first three possessions, and Miami's playoff victory drought was well on its way to 17 years and counting. Miami running back Jay Ajayi managed just 33 yards on 16 carries, or 171 yards less than he piled up against Pittsburgh in October.

Steelers assistant coach Joey Porter arrested after game

PITTSBURGH (AP)— Pittsburgh Steelers assistant coach Joey Porter is accused of assaulting a doorman at a Pittsburgh bar just hours after the team's wild-card win over the Miami Dolphins.

The alleged incident happened Sunday night following the Steelers' 30-12 victory over the Dolphins in the opening round of the NFL playoffs.

Police said security guards at The Flats on Carson summoned a police officer who was working at a nearby restaurant "due to an unruly customer who was in the process of assaulting the doorman."

Police said the officer stopped the assault and arrested the customer, who was later identified as the 39-year-old Porter, a former star player.

Porter was taken to the Allegheny County Jail. He faces charges including aggravated assault, simple assault, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and public drunkenness. It is unclear if he has an attorney who can comment on the charges.

"We are aware of an incident tonight involving Joey Porter. We are still gathering information as it pertains to the situation, and we will have no further comments until we get more details," The Steelers said in a statement.

Porter, who is currently the team's outside linebackers coach, spent 13 seasons as a linebacker playing with Pittsburgh, Miami and Arizona.

The Steelers will visit the Kansas City Chiefs next Sunday in the divisional round of the playoffs.

Harden powers Rockets past Raptors for 8th straight win



TORONTO (AP)—James Harden had 40 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his 10th triple-double of the season, and the Houston Rockets beat the Toronto Raptors 129-122 on Sunday night for their eighth straight victory.

Montrezl Harrell added 28 points on 12-of-13 shooting in 25 minutes, and fellow reserve Eric Gordon had 19 points to help Houston win consecutive road games over the Raptors for the first time.

DeMar DeRozan had 36 points for the Raptors, setting a career high with his 18th 30-plus-point game of the season. DeMarre Carroll tied a career high with 26 points and set a career high with six 3-pointers on 10 attempts.

Down 99-95 entering the fourth quarter, the Rockets went on a 15-0 run to take an 11-point lead. DeRozan's run of 12 consecutive points for the Raptors cut into that advantage, but Toronto could get no closer than five points.

While Harden had 10 points on 3-of-8 shooting, DeRozan led the way for the Raptors with 13 in the first quarter. He also started a 13-0 run from the 9:06 mark that took Toronto from a one-point deficit into a 12-point lead, eventually settling for a 37-27 edge after 12 minutes.

The Rockets began to eat into that lead toward the end of the second quarter, closing on a 12-2 run over the last 2:09 that closed the Raptors' lead to 63-61 at halftime, thanks to a buzzer-beating 3-pointer from Trevor Ariza.

Ryan Anderson gave Houston the lead for the first time since the first quarter with a 3-pointer just 14 seconds into the second half. But Toronto responded by going on a 17-3 run to open up an 83-70 lead. However, another buzzer-beater, this time from Harden, cut the lead to 99-95 entering the fourth quarter.



Cavaliers 120, Suns 116

In Phoenix, LeBron James scored 12 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter as Cleveland fought off Phoenix down the stretch.

Kyrie Irving added 27 points and Kevin Love 25 for the Cavaliers. They led by as many as 22 in the first half and 20 early in the third quarter. The Suns tied it late in the third and got within one in the fourth but never took the lead.

Eric Bledsoe scored 31 points and Devin Booker had 28 for the Suns.

James sank consecutive 3-pointers, his only 3s of the game, to give Cleveland a 115-109 lead with 2:46 to play and scored on a driving layup with 44 seconds left to make it 120-114.

Pistons 125, Trail Blazers 124, 20T

In Portland, Oregon, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope hit a 3-pointer with 9.4 seconds left

as Detroit outlasted Portland in a game postponed a day because of a winter storm.

Reggie Jackson led Detroit with 31 points, Andre Drummond had 28 points and 14 rebounds, and Caldwell-Pope finished with 26. The Pistons have won two straight for the first time since Dec. 2.

CJ McCollum had 35 points for Portland in the game with 14 lead changes and 11 ties. He has scored 20 points or more in seven straight games and is averaging 33.8 points in the last five.

Allen Crabbe added a career-high 30 points and Damian Lillard had 20.

Warriors 117, Kings 106

In Sacramento, California, Stephen Curry made five 3-pointers and scored 30 points as Golden State took its first lead midway through the third quarter on the way to the victory over Sacramento.

Kevin Durant had 28 points,

seven rebounds, six assists and four blocks, and Klay Thompson added 18 points. With their 17th straight victory after a loss, the Warriors reached 124 straight regular-season games without suffering back-to-back defeats.

Sacramento's Rudy Gay scored 15 of his 23 points in the first quarter.

Lakers 111, Magic 95

In Los Angeles, Julius Randle scored 19 points and rookie Brandon Ingram matched his career high with 17 in Los Angeles' victory over Orlando.

It was the first time in their last 30 games the Lakers put together consecutive victories.

D'Angelo Russell also scored 17 points for the Lakers and center Timofey Mozgov had 15 points and nine rebounds. Serge Ibaka, Evan Fournier and Nikola Vucevic each scored 19 points for Orlando.

Grizzlies 88, Jazz 79

In Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley had 19 points and nine assists and Marc Gasol scored 17 points in Memphis' victory over Utah.

Zach Randolph added 13 points and 11 rebounds. Gordon Hayward led the Jazz with 22 points, and George Hill added 15 points.

Clippers 98, Heat 86

In Los Angeles, J.J. Redick scored 25 points as Los Angeles beat Miami for its fourth straight victory.

Chris Paul had 19 points, 18 assists and one turnover, and DeAndre Jordan added 18 rebounds to help keep the Clippers unbeaten in the new year after they closed 2016 on a six-game skid.

Goran Dragic scored 24 points, and Hassan Whiteside had 15 points and 13 rebounds for Miami. The Heat shot 37 percent and had three technical fouls.

Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) scores as Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan (10) defends and guard Kyle Lowry (7) and forward Patrick Patterson (54) look on during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Toronto on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017.

The Clippers broke it open with a 43-21 run that spanned the second and third quarters. Redick scored 14 points and Paul added 12 as they stretched the lead from one point to 23 points. Redick hit three 3-pointers and Paul added another.

76ers 105, Nets 95

In New York, Joel Embiid scored 20 points and Philadelphia reached 10 victories to match its total from all last season, beating Brooklyn.

The 76ers broke it open with a 17-2 surge in the fourth quarter to win the matchup between the NBA's two worst teams and improve to 10-25 in their first season with former lottery picks Embiid and Dario Saric. They were 10-72 in 2015-16, just off their own record for worst finish in the 82-game schedule.

Embiid did his damage without even reaching the 28-minute restriction he was limited to as he recovers from a series of foot injuries that delayed his NBA debut for two years.

Brook Lopez scored 26 points for the Nets, who have lost six in a row to fall to 8-28.

Wizards 107, Bucks 101

In Milwaukee, Bradley Beal scored 26 points and Markieff Morris added 20 points and 10 rebounds to help Washington beat Milwaukee.

Jabari Parker led Milwaukee with 28 points. Malcolm Brogdon added a career-high 22 points, and Michael Beasley scored 18 points in 16 minutes. Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo was ill and didn't play.



DENVER (AP)—Always so optimistic, Chad Bettis vowed to be ready for spring training even after being diagnosed with testicular cancer in November and undergoing surgery.

Now, he knows for sure: The Colorado Rockies right-hander will most certainly be ready to pitch next month.

Cancer-free, too.

On his drive home to Texas for the holidays, Bettis received an early present in the form of a telephone call from his doctors—his blood work showed no more signs of cancer. His early detection, followed by surgery on Nov. 29 to have a testicle removed, proved invaluable.

Chad Bettis now cancer-free, prepares for spring training

"Just awesome news," said the 27-year-old Bettis, who's spending the offseason in the Phoenix area. "I feel really good. Looks like we're going to be right on schedule for spring training."

His clean bill of health does come with the stipulation that he has to go through routine blood tests every three months or so, just to make sure the cancer doesn't return. That he can deal with, especially after all he's been through.

"When my doctor said testicular cancer, I didn't really hear 'testicular' as much as the 'cancer' part," said Bettis, a second-round draft pick by the Rockies

in 2010. "And when you hear cancer, it's a blow. It's hard to wrap your mind around how that happened."

"But the more we talked about it, the more research I did, it wasn't so much worrying about baseball, it was that I needed to get this figured out now."

What led to his detection was not so much feeling sick but run down and exhausted soon after a season in which he went 14-8 with a 4.79 ERA. One day, he felt a lump about the size of a piece of rice. No reason for alarm, he told himself. The next day, it was still there.

So he contacted his doctor. An ultrasound and bloodwork revealed it was testicular cancer. A CT scan showed the cancer hadn't spread.

"I never would've thought I could have testicular cancer at 27, when I didn't feel any pain. That can't happen to me," Bettis said. "But it can, and you have to be aware of it and be in tune with your own health."

Soon after his surgery, he was cleared for some light rehab work. Then, it was all about getting back into shape—building up his shoulder and arm. Recently, he started throwing again.

Next week, he's going to be all systems go.

Bettis figures to be an integral part of the 2017 starting rotation under first-year Rockies manager Bud Black, joining a talented group that also includes Jon Gray, Tyler Anderson and Tyler Chatwood.

"Opening day—100 percent, that's my mindset," said Bettis, whose wife, Kristina, is expecting a girl in late March. "Just keep moving forward. That's always the kind of person I've been. Let's just keep pushing forward."

He's amazed at all the support he's received over the last few months. From his team-

mates, who sent him warm wishes. From management, which stood by his side. And from the fans, who've sent him encouraging messages.

"It's so nice to know there are so many who have gone through this and battled through this stuff and they're 30 years down road and have families and (the cancer) is still nonexistent," Bettis said. "It's something very curable, but you have to get it detected early."

That's why he wants to start a foundation one day, something that leads other men to early detection for testicular cancer - just like him.

"Get the word out there, where guys are checking for this," he said. "We can catch it early."

Alabama dynasty rolls into another champ game with Clemson

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Nick Saban and Alabama are on the verge of leaving college football history behind.

The top-ranked Crimson Tide face Clemson on Monday night in a College Football Playoff national championship game rematch. A victory would give Alabama five national championships in eight seasons, a feat never completed at the highest level of the sport during the poll era.

The Tide (14-0) can become the first FBS program to finish 15-0, along with the first to win four championships in span of six seasons, going back-to-back twice in that span.

A case can already be made that Alabama's current run is the greatest in college football history. Better than Notre Dame back in the grainy black-and-white footage days of Knute Rockne and Frank Leahy. Better than Miami's long run of dominance in the 1980s and early '90s. Better than anything Alabama did when Bear Bryant was leading the Tide in the 1960s and '70s.

Another title would give Saban six during the poll era that began in 1936, including a BCS crown at LSU in 2003, matching Bryant for the most of any major-college coach.

With one more championship, there will be no more

college football dynasties left to compare to Saban's.

"I mean, I've never seen anything like it," said Clemson coach Dabo Swinney, an Alabama native who grew up worshipping Bryant and ended up playing for national championship Tide team in 1992. "Every year is kind of that season of its own and you have your challenges, and it's a journey of its own. But to be able to regroup and create that edge and meet those challenges, continue to manage your staff and your roster and compete at the highest level, I mean, it's just unbelievable what has happened."

Swinney and Saban held a joint news conference Sunday morning at the convention center in downtown Tampa. The same deal as last year, just in a different place.

Swinney's team stands in the way of an Alabama championship again. The Tigers have not won a national title since 1981. As Swinney and his players have said over and over, it is the only box left for the program to check as it has taken a place among the elite in college football.

Heisman Trophy runner-up Deshaun Watson said he knew when he decided to come to Clemson in 2012 he was joining a program poised for big things.

"I felt the energy, I bought into what Coach Swinney was saying and what he thought the future was going to bring to this program and I wanted to be a part of it," said Watson, a junior most certainly playing his last college game.

Clemson is working on a streak of six consecutive 10-win seasons, topped only by Alabama's 10 straight.

Watson, the quarterback from Gainesville, Georgia, has been maybe the biggest reason why Clemson has become Alabama's final and greatest challenge the last two seasons.

He was spectacular against the Tide in the title game last year with 478 total yards. Unable to stop Watson, Alabama used a surprising onside kick to swing the game its way and win 45-40.

The Crimson Tide defense enters the game ranked tops in the nation in total defense, rushing defense, yards per play allowed and points allowed. It is also responsible for 12 of the team's stunning 15 non-offensive touchdowns.

Clemson, meanwhile, is coming off its best defensive effort for the season in a 31-0 Fiesta Bowl win against Ohio State.

The Tide has won 26 straight games. The Tigers are 27-2 the last two seasons.

"Frazier-Ali type of fight," Alabama tight end O.J. Howard said. "Two great teams, and we're going to go at it and it's going to be a great game Monday night."

Howard added: "We're Ali."

Things to know about Tide vs. Tigers II:

HURTS SO GOOD: Alabama's Jalen Hurts could become the first true freshman quarterback to lead a team to the national championship since Jamelle Holieway did it with Oklahoma in 1985.

Hurts is coming off one of his worst games of the season. He was 7 for 14 for 57 yards against in a 24-7 victory against Washington in the Peach Bowl.

SARKISIAN'S DEBUT: Hurts will have to turn it around with a new offensive coordinator and play-caller. Former USC and Washington coach Steve Sarkisian takes over after spending the season in Tuscaloosa working as an analyst and aid to Lane Kiffin, who is now the head coach at Florida Atlantic. Saban made the change after the Washington game.

"So it's really different, but I think we feel good about the situation we're in, and we all think that he'll do a great job come Monday," Hurts said.

END OF AN ERA: Clemson won't fade away after this sea-

son, but the Tigers are losing the core of a great team.

Mostly likely joining Watson as an early NFL draft entrant are receiver Mike Williams, a likely first-round pick, and leading rusher Wayne Gallman. Receiver Artavis Scott is also in the group the Swinney said he expects to leave early. The Tigers also will say goodbye to senior center Jay Guillermo and three defensive players who earned All-America honors in defensive tackle Carlos Watkins (second-team), linebacker

Ben Boulware (third team) and cornerback Cordrea Tankersley (third team).

BEATING No. 1: This would be Clemson's first victory over a team ranked No. 1 and would give the Tigers five victories against ranked opponents this season, the most in school history.

ROLLING VS. RANKED TEAMS: Alabama has won 16 straight games against ranked opponents, matching Southern California's record streak during the Pete Carroll era (2001-09).

JI MIN

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6-1, 6-0.

Despite getting the boot in the consolation draw, Paik will still play in the tournament, as he and Woo are scheduled to challenge No. 1 seeds Charlie Camus and Cooper Glenn Wilkinson in the doubles quarterfinal round today at 1:30pm.

In other results, Conatsu Kaga eased past Australia's Emily Beetson, 6-1, 6-0, and then outlasted Sarah Thomas, 6-4, 3-6, 10-6, to barge into the quarterfinal round of the girls U14 consolation draw. Conatsu will try to gain a semis berth when she takes on Australia's Abbey Coulbourne today at 8:30am.

Conatsu's younger sister, Coume, also played in the consolation draw, but bowed to Cassie Fleming in the second round despite drawing first blood. Coume waltzed past Fleming in the first set, 6-1, before losing the last two, 4-6, 8-10.

Meanwhile, Malika Miyawaki missed in her semis bid in the main draw of the girls U14 singles after falling to the top-seeded Ciara Di Tommaso, 0-6, 2-6. Joining Di Tommaso in the Final Four were Joy Andreou, Tamara Bajagic, and Eloise Swarbrick, who are all seeded in the tournament.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

KNIGHTS

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ary 2015 down in Guam. The CNMI lost in a nail-biter with two seconds left on the clock. Guam aired the ball out to an open receiver in the end zone. The final score was 12-6," Commonwealth Football League Association chair Ed Arriola said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* last weekend.

After the sorry loss, Team CNMI was dissolved and the sport took a long break as later in 2015 Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan. It was not until early last year that gridiron action re-

turned to the island with MCS athletics director John Blanco forming a squad made up mostly of Mt. Carmel students.

"We formed a squad sponsored primarily by Mount Carmel School (MCS) but it is open to all students on island willing to play on the squad. The Knights, the MCS' official mascot, is the name the CNMI Team will carry going into this contest," Arriola added.

The official rosters from the two MCS squads are not yet available and will be announced on game day, according to Blanco, adding that all their players are excited for

the Marianas Bowl. The two teams practice regularly at the Knights pitch and at the CPA Airport Field as they know they will be facing good players from Guam.

"Our two teams will be in for a tough day against two veteran Guam squads being handled by a seasoned collection of coaches that knows how to get the job done. Both players and coaches have years of experience under their belts," Blanco said.

"Though our youth squad is made up mostly of rookie players who are new to the game and a high school team that

lacks the roster/veteran depth that its counterpart possesses, we still look to go out and play our best. Regardless of the outcome, it's still a win given the adversity we have faced over the last two years," he added.

Blanco will coach the youth/matua team, while Vaeotootoo Failauga Jr will call the shots for the high school squad. Completing the two teams' officials list are assistant coach/defensive coordinator Joe Ocampo, matua coach Mike Tenorio, quarterback/assistant coach Jerome Norita, defensive coordinator Joshua Manglona, and offensive line coach Harley Erich.

670

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used their height advantage to also hit double figures as they logged 12 markers each.

Apasan and Ordon started out for the 670 with the former firing 9 points and the latter adding 6 off two triples to lift their team to a 28-23 lead at the break. At the resumption of the match, Ordon found a new ally in Kintaro, who made up for his slow performance in the first half (nailing only one field goal) by registering 10. Ordon buried two more treys in the second half with his last also serving as the 670 Sonics' fi-

nal basket in the match.

Ordon, Kintaro, and Apasan's combined output offset the game-high 20 points of the O'Acers 2's Troy Ngirarois, who was the lone player on his team to score in twin digits.

Meanwhile, in the boys U25 division, Rollers 2 gained its first win in two games after topping Talaabwogh Star, 50-43.

It was a come-from-behind victory for Rollers 2 as it faced a 23-38 deficit at half-time. Prince Factor, who was held to one field goal in the opening half, led Rollers 2's fightback after scoring 10 markers, including the team's last 5 points.

Factor finished with 14 points, while Sam Darag, who kept Rollers 2 in the game in the first half, chipped in 13. Joseph Lifoifoi had 20 markers in a losing effort for the winless Talaabwogh (0-2).

U16 DIVISION

First Game

Rollers 1 44 – Factor 9, Tengco 8, Richardson 5, Kisa 4, Pangelinan 4, Hudkins 4, Dela Cruz 3, Quitugua 2, Cobacha 2, Valencia 1.

O'Acers 1 21 – Laxa 5, Ogasawara 4, Metran 4, Casauran 2, Soriano 2, Ferrer 2, Lajara 2.

Scoring by halves: 21-4, 44-21.

Third Game

670 Sonics 63 – Ordon 16, Kintaro 12, Apasan 12, Itaas 9, Dionisio 6, Bayot 5, Cadag 3.

O'Acers 2 57 – Ngirarois 20, Ichihara 7, Quitugua 6, Santos 6, Lizama 5, Deleon Guerrero 5, Johnny 5, Reyes 1.

Scoring by halves: 28-23, 63-57.

U25 DIVISION

Rollers 2 50 – Factor 14, Darag 13, Kwon 9, Ellama 8, Rabauliman 2, McKenzie 1.

Talaabwogh Star 43 – Jo. Lifoifoi 20, Ja. Lifoifoi 16, Lieto 2, F. Lifoifoi 2, Concepcion 2, Evangelista 1.

Scoring by halves: 28-23, 50-43.

PIC Southside Siheki Ride

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Freddy Salavaria, left, and Reo Arriola raise their arms together as they are about to cross the finish line of last Saturday's Pacific Islands Club Southside Siheki Ride.



Ding Ramos is on his way to a third place finish in the men's short course.



Butch Sublemente cools down after finishing the 18K race (short course)



Ben Babauta heads to the finish line to complete the MTB short course.



Taiga Sato slows down as he approaches the finish line.



Jojo Valencia, left, and Samson Tan are all smiles as they near the finish line.



Saipan International School students prepare to greet the bikers at the finish line.



Rhenmer Remillosa, left, and Wynn Brillo bump fists after finishing the race.



**Rodgers works
Hail Mary
magic, Packers
beat Giants**

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**Harden powers
Rockets past
Raptors for 8th
straight win**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ji Min, Conatsu advance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Ji Min Woo and Conatsu Kaga marched into the semis and quarterfinals of their respective events in the consolation bracket in the 2017 Margaret Court Cup in Australia.



Woo, who earned a 1-1 record in the main draw of the boys U12 singles, notched three victories in the consolation group to take a Final Four seat, while Conatsu also had a pair of wins in the girls U14 singles to move into the quarterfinals and make up for her super-tie-

breaker loss in the first round of the main draw.

Twelve year-old Woo topped Australia's George Georgakas, 6-0, 6-3, and then had a similar straight sets triumph over Fiji's Storm Cornish, 6-0, 6-2, to march into the quarterfinals. Woo made it three in a row and booked a semis ticket when he swept Etienne Marais Horak, 6-2, 6-2.

In the Final Four, Woo will be up against another Aussie bet Jay Coxon, who defeated Dylan Guler, 6-1, 7-5; Leo Simmons, 6-1, 6-7, 12-10; and Maita Munyimani, 6-3, 6-3, to move one step closer to a finals appearance. Coxon and Woo will battle for the finals berth at the upper half of the consolation draw today at 8:30am (7:30 Saipan time) at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales.

Earlier in the third round, Horak foiled an all-CNMI Round of 8 duel when he eliminated Woo's doubles teammate Seung Jin Paik, 6-4, 6-1. Paik got a Round 3 slot following his domination of Australia's Christian Muller,

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ji Min Woo eyes a return from the baseline during a local tournament last year at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

670 Sonics, Rollers 1 still unbeaten



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

670 Sonics and Ol'Aces 2 players battle for the loose ball during the first half of their U16 division game in the TanHoldings holiday caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 670 Sonics and Rollers 1 kept their perfect records in the boys U16 division of the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament after posting contrasting wins last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

In the first match in the division, Rollers 1 eased past the Ol'Aces 1, 44-21, while in the last match, the 670 Sonics outclassed the Ol'Aces 2, 63-57. Rollers 1 now has a 4-0 record to remain on top of the team standings in the eight-squad division, while the 670 Sonics is not far behind at second place with its 3-0

card. The Ol'Aces 1 and 2 dropped to 0-2 and 1-2 slates, respectively, and are at the bottom half of the team standings.

No Rollers 1 player broke into double figures as it ran a balance offense for the 23-point win over the Ol'Aces 1. All 10 players on Rollers 1's roster made it to the board with six of them scoring at least 4 points each. Angelo Factor had 9 points, Jude Tengco chipped in 8, and Matthew Richardson tallied 5. Jake Pangelinan, Joe Kisa, and A.J. Hudkins contributed 4 markers apiece.

While Rollers 1 spread the wealth, it was a different sto-



ry for the Ol'Aces 1, which had only two players scoring in the first half, allowing the former to build a 21-4 halftime advantage. Rollers 1 then continued to draw contributions from different players in the second half, giving the Ol'Aces 1 no chance to overhaul the deficit.

In the final boys U16 division match last weekend, the 670 Sonics leaned on the trio of Rafael Ordon, Sean Apasan, and Jester Kintaro to down the Ol'Aces 2.

Ordon top-scored for the 670 Sonics with his 16 points, while Kintaro and Apasan

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Knights vs Guam All-Stars in Marianas Bowl

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It will be newcomers versus veterans as the Mt. Carmel School Knights take on the Guam All-Stars in the Marianas Bowl this Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

The weekend event will feature two games with the

first one set for 10am pitting the opposing teams' 10 to 14 year old players (youth/matua) and the second one at 1pm featuring the squads' players in the 15 to 18 age group (high school).

"The youth/matua division game—the third between the two islands—will see a



seasoned team from Guam, headed by Guam organizer Herman Guerrero, facing off against a relatively green squad of CNMI players. The last time the island teams met was in Janu-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Knights players perform a drill during one of their training sessions at the Mt. Carmel School ground.